

# New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • March 1996



Rigoberta Menchú stands before her portrait at the Women's Building. (Photo by Linda Wilson)

## St. Peter's Evicts Its Housing Committee

by Kurt Bier

**S**T. PETER'S HOUSING Committee (SPHC) is being evicted from its office on 24th Street adjacent to St. Peter's Parish, its home for the last 11 years. As it looks now, by the end of March SPHC will have settled into its new location in the Centro Del Pueblo at 16th and Valencia Streets, ending its association with the parish that helped start it.

The move comes at a particularly difficult time for St. Peter's, which is launching a number of new projects, and whose already tight finances may now need to be further restructured.

SPHC Program Director Gloria Lopez said she was caught off guard by the eviction, which was first brought to her attention in late January when Father John Isaacs brought prospective tenants in to have a look at the property. He informed Ms. Lopez of the impending

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## Violence Prevention Summit

# Communities of Color Come Together To Address Problem of Youth Violence

The Mission District Community Peace Initiative announces plans for a June 1st Bay Area Peace Walkathon to raise funds for violence prevention programs

by Victor Miller

**G**ANG-RELATED VIOLENCE HAS plagued the Mission and other communities for the past several years and has also given rise to a number of neighborhood anti-violence organizing drives. On February 23rd, over 300 people committed to ending gang warfare came together at San Francisco's First Unitarian Church for the Communities of Color Violence Prevention Summit.

Representatives from youth groups, city government, and neighborhood organizations throughout the city met to begin mapping out a joint strategy for peace that will be presented to Mayor Willie Brown. Among the issues discussed was the ready availability of liquor and guns for young people. This issue is of special concern to the Mission District, where 48 youths have been killed in gang-related violence in the last four years — most by firearms — and where the per capita number of off-sale liquor outlets is the highest in the state.

Despite a scheduling crunch that kept the mayor from delivering a keynote address and despite an off-key law and order speech by District Attorney Terence Hallinan that drew more than a few boos, the summit went smoothly and allowed organizers to get the ball rolling for the First Annual Bay Area Peace Walkathon planned for June 1.

Mitch Salazar, co-facilitator of the Mission District Community Peace Initiative (CPI) told the Summit audience: "What's important is that we've come together, that we're in this sanctuary and we're not burying somebody. Violence is curable."

CPI is a broad-based coalition of city officials including the superintendent of Education, the heads of the departments of Health and Social Services, and the captain of the Mission Police Station; community activists; representatives of community-based organizations such as the Mission Hiring Hall and Arriba Juntos; business groups such as the Committee on Jobs; young adults; and parents.

This big-tent approach aims to deal with the multiple causes of youth violence in a comprehensive way.

Gang mayhem in the Mission, while having a devastating and deadly effect on youth, is also wreaking havoc in other areas. In February, the last of the Mission's first-run movie houses, the Tower at 21st and Mission, finally closed up shop. According to proprietor Larry Martin, fear for personal safety kept the Tower empty most nights. "After dark, forget it. Nobody's going out on Mission Street," he said. On the same block, the Cola Cabana Restaurant, a long term dream project of local dentist Robert Cenicerros, shut its doors for the same reason.

Mission District crime figures have gone down in some categories and up in others. The latest figures available - comparing the 11 month period of January through November 1994 to the same period in 1995 - show a drop in homicides from 16 in 1994 to 13 in 1995; a drop in rapes from 32 in 1994 to 29 in 1995 and a decline in burglaries from 789 to 778. On the rise were robberies with the number of incidents up from 693 to 793; aggravated assaults increased from 544 incidents to 591. While auto theft showed the

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NEW: A COLUMN WRITTEN BY DA' MAYOR

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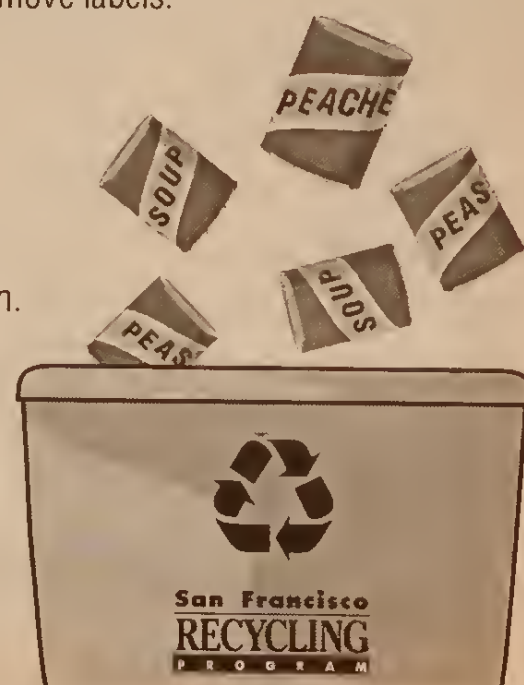
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# Lost in the Permit Twilight Zone

## Long and Bitter Beer and Wine Dispute May Kill New Business

Alcohol can lead to arguments even when nobody's drinking.

The Mission's newest Spanish restaurant, La Movida, has been serving paella and tapas since opening in October. But unlike such hotspots as Esperpento or Picaro, La Movida does not serve sangria, wine or beer. Diners expecting to share a carafe of sangria with their garlic shrimp will have to make do with a cup or two of watermelon punch from the glass jug that sits on the bar. La Movida's owner, Marieta Nunez, is not happy about this. "We can last for maybe two more months without serving liquor," says Nunez.

Nunez applied to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a permit to sell alcohol last July. But Susanne Bombosch, the pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, opposed Nunez's application, fearing an increase in alcohol-related crime in the neighborhood. Bombosch, the Dolores Plaza Homeowner's Association, and Mission resident James Harris were among the contestants who filed objections to Nunez's license with the ABC.

Nunez is applying for what is known as a conditional license, which would allow her to sell only beer and wine, not hard alcohol such as gin or vodka. Unlike a liquor store, La Movida would not be allowed to sell alcohol "off-site," i.e., for customers to take with them. And though the restaurant features a spacious bar, La Movida would be limited to selling wine and beer to dining patrons only.

"We're responsible people," says Nunez. "But we're being put in the same category as a liquor store who sells to kids."

After Bombosch filed her objection, the dispute between the pastor and the restaurant owner turned into a battle with increasingly serious allegations coming from both sides. "It's like a soap opera,"

says Nunez. "But in a soap opera there's only broken hearts. Here, it's people's livelihoods, and that's not acceptable."

Nunez claims she sent a letter to each contestant inviting them to visit the restaurant and sample the food. "The Dolores Plaza people came down and voiced their concerns," says Nunez, "and they left satisfied. Now they're eating dinner here." But Nunez claims Bombosch refuses to meet with her. "Whenever I call, she just hangs up. I've never even met her face to face," says Nunez. "I wouldn't recognize her on the street."

Nunez says she both wrote to and phoned Bombosch asking why the pastor continued to voice opposition to the license. "If it's a church matter, I don't understand," says Nunez. "Wine is served in communion. I said to her, 'I've seen weddings in your church. Don't the guests want to go to dinner afterward and have some wine or champagne?'"

Nunez says Bombosch not only misinterpreted the question as an attack on the doctrine of the Lutheran church, but began accusing her of selling drugs to poor people. "I think she has a huge problem of some sort," says Nunez.

According to Nunez, in January Bombosch told Timothy Simpson, the ABC investigator assigned to the case, of her intention to send to the department a letter withdrawing her objection. "I called her a couple of times because the letter never arrived," says Nunez. "She would just say, 'I sent it; leave me alone.' Then she called Simpson in February, over a month later, to say she had changed her mind."

Nunez then had a lawyer send Bombosch a letter stating that Nunez was prepared to take legal action against Bombosch should La Movida go out of business. "That scared them," says Nunez. "After that, she called the ABC to say that we were threatening to blow up the church!" Nunez said the ABC asked her

to sign an affidavit swearing that she had not threatened Bombosch in any way.

"She's playing with people's livelihoods," Nunez fumes. "The whole situation is ridiculous."

Sitting in a small office at the back of the green church that has stood at the corner of 16th and Mission for over 100 years, Bombosch says she objected to La Movida's application because she read of a study by the San Diego Police Department that found that any liquor license increases police calls by 23%. "I believe in the Mission; I believe in families," says Bombosch. She points out that she has found human vomit, urine, and feces in the parking lot of her church. She also points to the Mission's high crime rate and its high concentration of bars and liquor stores.

"This is a neighborhood. This is how you do it," says Bombosch. "I have a right to voice concern. They have a right to apply. The ABC reaches a decision on what's right for the neighborhood."

Bombosch claims that she, Harris, and another individual believed that La Movida would be serving mixed drinks and functioning more as a bar than as a restaurant. According to Bombosch, after she filed her objection she began to receive anonymous phone calls at the church and at home. "Someone threatened to fire-bomb our church," Bombosch says, shaking and in tears.

"I've asked the ABC to move the hearing ahead to get this over with, but there

isn't even a hearing scheduled," says Bombosch, adding that in January she felt so severely harassed that she sent a fax to the ABC withdrawing her objection. But she says that when she discovered that the fax did not reach its destination, she did not re-send it.

"The only reason I haven't withdrawn is because I don't want to let down the other contestants," says Bombosch. Harris, known to be one of the contestants, could not be reached by press time.

"I find out now that all they ever applied for was a restricted license," says Bombosch. "If I'd known that she wanted only wine and beer with the meals, I would have supported her."

According to Geraldine Evans, Simpson's supervisor at ABC, it's "very common" for residents to oppose liquor licenses for restaurants. "Protested applications take longer than any other investigation," Evans says, adding that La Movida's case is "not unusual, nor has it taken any longer than any other case."

However, Rasoi, an Indian restaurant several blocks away from La Movida, applied for its liquor license in August, just a month after La Movida did. Though they also received some opposition from the community, they received their license February 13. Neither Evans nor Simpson would discuss the details of La Movida's application, though Simpson did confirm that no hearing date has yet been set.

Rafer Guzman

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# Anti-Violence Summit Continued From Page One

biggest drop, from 1215 to 987, auto boosting showed the biggest increase from 1199 to 1519 reported occurrences. Overall major crimes in the Mission are down by 3.18% but because of the high amount of media coverage youth crime has received, the Mission is perceived as much less safe than it really is, and teens of color are often seen stereotypically as gangbangers.

Salazar has pointed out on many occasions that in the best estimates of law enforcement and social service agencies, only 500 of the Mission's 14,000 young people are involved in gangs and of these only a hard core of 100 is unreachable. Given these numbers, in light of the considerable clout and expertise of the CPI coalition, Salazar said he saw the disease of youth violence as "curable."

According to CPI Executive Director Anthony Coja, the idea for the June 1 Peace Walkathon came from young people involved in CPI, who have been pushing him to try a large-scale demonstration of the commitment of most Bay Area youth to peace.

The Walkathon will be modeled after similar Bike-a-thons and Dance-a-thons that have successfully raised funds for causes such as AIDS prevention. School groups will recruit sponsorship for walkers and keep 70% of the money raised. The remaining money will go toward anti-violence programs and Walkathon expenses.

## Eviction Continued From Page One

formed Ms. Lopez of the impending eviction, explaining that the church needed to rent the space for market rate, not the \$150 SPHC paid each month.

"We were all very shocked, given that the organization is tied to the church," she said. "One would think that the church would be more supportive, given its mission to help the poor."

On January 24, SPHC received an official Notice of Termination of Tenancy from a real estate agent representing the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco, the lessor of the space. The Notice gave SPHC 30 days to vacate the premises. An attached letter from Rev. Isaacs explained, "It is easier for me to have one group... with a membership who take ownership of the property -by having members fix it up and keep it in condition- lease the space."

Ms. Lopez wrote back asking that the 30-day period be extended to four months because of the difficulty of finding affordable and immediately available office space in the city. She further argued, "Given the fact that the services we provide are extremely critical in preventing homelessness, we just cannot close down our doors and stop these crucial services."

Father Isaacs reviewed the situation and offered to extend the deadline to March 31 with the understanding that SPHC would be responsible for the cost of any legal action brought against it if the organization stayed beyond that date. "While we regret that your association with the parish must come to an end, the time has come for the pressing needs of the parish be met," the letter concluded.

Rafaela Canelo, a member of SPHC's board of directors and of St. Peter's Parish congregation, both understands and is confused by Father Isaac's actions, "The church all the time needs money, but why do they do this now?" he said.

Ms. Lopez is also perplexed by the termination of the Parish's relationship with SPHC. The church played an instrumental role in the founding of SPHC 11 years ago, providing the space it currently occupies and asking only for a \$70 donation each month in return. At the end of each mass, parishioners were informed of the services St. Peter's Housing provided; the two organization shared intimate knowledge of each other's activities.

But a year and a half ago these exchanges ended. At the same time, SPHC began taking more and more landlords to court for violating tenants rights — land-

## Alcohol accessibility

At the summit, researcher Darwin Farrar spoke on the relationship of youth-committed crimes and alcohol consumption. He called alcohol "the number one drug of choice for young people," adding that "six times as many youth are arrested with alcohol in their blood than with crack cocaine."

In the Mission, where for every 96 people there is one off-sale permit, alcohol control issues are an extremely hot topic. Even an innocuous application by a restaurant to serve beer and wine with meals can set off the nastiest of fights (see story on page three).

In the weeks before the summit, a furor was in the wind when the Southland Corporation tried to flex its chain-store muscle and put a 7-11 at 24th and Mission. Recent changes in state liquor regulations, which prevent a high concentration of licenses in one area and bar the transfer of licenses into areas with high crime rates, would probably have stopped the 7-11 if Southland had not withdrawn its application first.

But perhaps the strongest obstacle to new off-sale establishments in the Mission is the temporary moratorium passed by the Board of Supervisors in 1993. Southland's expansion move may have provided the wakeup call necessary to get the moratorium made permanent. Supervisors Susan Leal and Kevin Sbelley will

... who were also, coincidentally, members of St. Peter's Parish. According to Ms. Lopez, some members of the board of directors told her that a number of these landlords complained to the reverend, accusing SPHC of attacking landlords and threatening to remove their children from St. Peter's School.

When Ms. Lopez became Program Director in August, she was aware of the church's wish to raise the rent SPHC paid to a level equal that of the market. She tried to contact Rev. Isaacs to discuss the issue with him, but was informed that he was on sick leave until December. According to Ms. Lopez, she called the parish two or three times in December and early January to negotiate a new lease at the higher price, but received no reply, and did not talk to Rev. Isaacs again until he walked into SPHC's office with the prospective tenants.

"Illness can explain some of it," observed Ms. Lopez. "He [Rev. Isaacs] doesn't want any complications. He doesn't want to deal with the complaints of parishioners who are property owners, but the church's role is to help the disadvantaged. The poor need services, too. If they saw us as a desirable part of the church's services, they would be more understanding and supportive of our position."

Currently represented by a lawyer from the Tenderloin Housing Clinic (THC), SPHC hopes to forestall eviction until the end of April. Their new office space at Centro Del Pueblo is still under construction and is scheduled to be ready by March 31, but SPHC wants some breathing room in case of delays. One of the more painful effects of the eviction will be the dramatic increase in monthly rent, from \$150 to \$558, a cut-rate price that will increase yearly.

All of this hubbub makes launching the SPHC's new services even more difficult. It plans to provide eviction defense for tenants, an acute need due to the disintegration of the THC's same department, as well as start a tenant outreach program in conjunction with the Bureau of Building Inspection. They've also taken on the burden of informing the community about the hazards of lead and assisting in its abatement.

For Ms. Lopez, the most frustrating part of this affair has been the lack of communication. "If he [Rev. Isaacs] had just told us," she said, "we would have found a way to pay. It's too bad."



Youth announced peace march at the summit. Photo by Jonathan Hoare

be introducing legislation to that effect this month. If it passes, all new liquor outlets will be banned with the exception of restaurants, which will be subject to a number of restrictions. According to insiders, this would come just in time for Southland's second attempt.

## Guns kill kids

The most dramatic set of statistics presented at the summit were cited by Dr. Geno Tellez, a trauma surgeon at San Francisco General Hospital. Tellez said that in the U.S. between 1992 and 1994, 48% of deaths of people under the age of 24 were due to gunshot wounds. "One thousand handguns are being produced every day," Tellez said. "This is the cancer. Let's get rid of it ; let's prevent it."

Tellez related a story of a particularly intense three hour period at S.F. General a few days before the Summit. A 22-year-old came into the hospital with a gunshot wound and died, followed shortly by a 16-year-old who was shot in the stomach but lived.

Further handgun control may be more difficult than controlling alcohol establishments. The number of legal sellers of firearms in San Francisco has declined rapidly in last few years. According to Officer Barbara Campagnoli of the SFPD permit section, which oversees local gun sellers, at one point about six years ago there were over 200 individuals selling guns, some from out of their homes, with Federal Firearms Licenses in San Francisco. Now there are less than three dozen.

In the Mission, there are eight such licenses. Three of these belong to pawn shops that have discontinued sales of guns; one is Highbridge Arms Inc., located on Mission near Cesar Chavez. The remaining four are in residential and mixed residential/commercial locations, and will therefore not be renewed due to an agreement between the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the SFPD.

The Federal Firearms License, a local police permit, a state certification, and a secondhand dealer's license are now all necessary to sell firearms legally in San Francisco. Before long, only very few le-

gitimate gun dealers such as Highbridge will be selling guns legally. Of course, the black market continues to exist as the chief source of guns for violent crime. It is much harder to control than dealers who, at the very least, go through the formality of filling out forms with regulatory agencies.

## Hallinan's hard line

The three organizers of the summit, Sbareen Hewitt of the Coalition for an African American Community Agenda, Salazar, and Tellez, have all received fellowships from the California Wellness Foundation, which is funding a \$40 million five-year effort to reduce youth violence. The Foundation's three-part policy goal includes regulating firearms, reducing the role of alcohol as a factor in youth-related violence, and finding alternatives to incarceration.

It was therefore peculiar to hear prominent, progressive District Attorney Terence Hallinan deliver a law and order address during which he talked about sending 14-year-olds to prison for life and cited the old saw, "Use a gun go to jail." Many of the young people in the audience booed Hallinan, who disappointed the audience by having no innovative ideas on youth violence. When Aisha Beliso, a young woman from the Mission, confronted Hallinan about his remark, he responded by saying: "My job is enforcing the laws, and although I don't look forward to putting 14-year-olds in prison for the rest of their lives, I will."

A compelling reason as to why Hallinan and other Californian D.A.'s should not rest easy with one-note big stick policies came from a man not scheduled to speak at the conference, Samoan-American community activist Sululagi Palega. Palega's son was recently killed while visiting Modesto for a church basketball tournament, a mistaken victim of a driveby shooter who later asked police if he shot the right Samoan. "It only takes one kid with uncaring parents to put a hole in all of our dreams," Palega told the audience. "The kid you think is not worth your time may be the one who brings some drama to your life."

## NEW MISSION NEWS

695-8702 • 777 Valencia, SF, CA 94110

**Editor-in-Chief.....**Victor Miller  
**Associate Editor.....**Branwyn Neal  
**Writers.....**Victor Miller • Jaqueline E. Letolien  
Robert Leaver • Frank Deadbeat • Rofer Guzmón  
D. Michael Spero • Kurt Bier • Kevin Horwitz  
Hank Hyeno • Monico Candrody • Morguerite  
Carpenter • Stephanie Black • Steve • Willie Brawn Jr.  
**Photos.....**Eugene Kettner • Linda Wilson  
Jonathon Hoore  
**Arts Consultant.....**Mario Jael  
**Graphics.....**Cynthio Solguera • Novorrete-Alazón



# New Mission News Editorials

## The Mission M.O.

Last month, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Mission Housing and Development Corporation's plans to build a 30-unit apartment building at 21st and South Van Ness. The development would provide homes for low-income families, with 10 units reserved for people with AIDS.

This will not be the last round of a battle that has few neighborhood precedents for vileness and ill will. A small but stubborn group of property owners who maintain that the size and shape of the building somehow violates their rights and adversely affects the historical value of their Victorian holdings, seems determined to take the matter to court. In the nearly year and a half that this battle has raged, accusations of racism, anti-semitic and homophobic slurs, and threats to burn down anything that's built have all lowered the quality of life for the rest of us who live in the Mission.

That such a tremendous amount of time and energy should be devoted to a process of demonization and division that may ultimately have neither winners nor losers is the height of stupidity. This is the exactly the type of thing that keeps communities down. Most people can see this, but few are willing to take on the thankless task of trying to do something about it.

Supervisor Susan Leal, although a strong advocate of the proposed apartments from early on, was willing to use her office to set up a professional mediation session between the warring parties. It was not an uncontroversial decision, and she made it with the best of intents: ending an ugly and potentially violent situation in our community. Leal took more than a little heat from some quarters, but

remained undeterred. If the mediation did not end the conflict, it at least offered an option to the endless battles, which has made getting anything done in the Mission nearly impossible. For once, the people of this neighborhood were well served by one of their elected officials.

So the issue of 1010 South Van Ness will go to court, and the animosities it has stirred will mature into grudges. This is the Mission *modus operandi*; this is the Mission cancer. It's time to find another way to live together.

## Vote

The March 26 election will probably be more endurable than most, if only because there are fewer things on the ballot to be concerned with this time around. In fact, there are only two city ballot propositions which the News advises you, with some reservations, to

## Vote Yes On A

Well, once again it's time to dump another wad of cash into that municipal money pit known as the Moscone Center. For a piddling little \$157.5 million, the Center will be expanded by 300,000 square feet, making room for more visiting stamp collectors, embalmers, and divorce lawyer conventioners, who will eat our food, drink our booze, and untidy our hotel rooms at the usual inflated prices at which our fair city extends its hospitality.

Some, notably State Senator Quentin Kopp, complain that previous bond issues to improve the Youth Guidance Center, the County Jail and Laguna Honda should have passed, but did not, and that if the city is going to extend its indebtedness, it

ought to do so for one of those three items first and give a lower priority to skinning tourists.

The sad thing is that the Youth Guidance Center, the jail, and Laguna Honda are facilities for people from whom a profit cannot be wrested. Laguna Honda serves a population without a disposable income and the other two harbor people who, if they have any disposable income at all, are most likely incarcerated because of the means they employed in attaining it.

Like it or not, San Francisco is in the tourist business big time -- about \$4 billion a year big time. The money that pays for the paltry city services we've got comes to a large degree from our continued ability to sell sourdough T-shirts to wives of Baptist ministers from Iowa. But drawing people across state lines in sufficiently large numbers for such silly but lucrative endeavors requires a bigger facility than the one we've got.

At least this time around, the money for the expansion will come directly from the hospitality industry itself via an increase in the hotel tax. But it should be pointed out that in the past, when local activists suggested a raise in the hotel tax to promote non-tourist purposes, they were branded as bomb-throwing anarchists by some of the very same people who now support Proposition A with drooling enthusiasm. Never mind. The hell with consistency. Vote yes on A. Some of the loot may even trickle down to you or me.

## Vote Yes on B

The measure on the ballot regarding a new ball park at China Basin in no way guarantees a new ball park will be built if the measure passes. Voting yes on Proposition B merely means that the current ban on non-maritime use and other planning restrictions on the proposed site be lifted so the ball park developers can proceed through the agonizing marathon approval process any other large development must endure.

The ball park proponents are all full of

rosy financial studies predicting a new era of prosperity should their stadium be completed. But whether or not these figures are correct or self-serving will be part and parcel of a more deliberate public process that will follow the passage of Proposition B.

The only question now in consideration is whether or not the China Basin plan is so horrible that it should be stopped at once. In that case, the public would be denied the opportunity for a full and complete examination of what may be a truly great addition to the city. The potential economic benefits of this project are simply too enormous to give it a cursory no that opponents are urging.

If Prop B passes, as it appears it will, those monitoring the development process should be wary of the real estate speculation and profiteering that always comes in the wake projects of this kind. Displacement and homelessness were the consequences for those who once lived or worked where the ball park's ballot-mate, the Convention Center, now sits and sucks dollars.

## Other Stuff

A lot of people, some of whom do not even have the excuse of alcoholism, are running for the Democratic or Republican Central Committee, and there's very little that can be done to stop them.

Angela Alioto and John Burton are running for State Senate, but they're always running for something. This time they're running against each other, which should be more interesting than it is.

A quirk in the election laws allows you to vote for Carol Migden twice -- something you can tell your grandchildren about.

The only people running for judge are either already judges or lawyers, which is just too bad.

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\*CHRIA is a nonprofit humanitarian organization working in support of health rights across borders. CHRIA works on behalf of immigrant and refugee health rights and has projects in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico.



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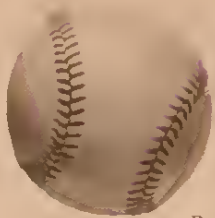
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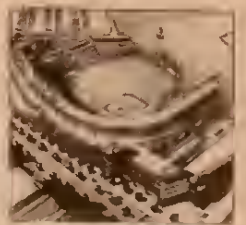
# Because It's More Than Just a Game



Baseball is just a game. Funding police, and fire, and hospitals and schools — that's real life. And that's why Proposition B is a proposal the whole city can root for. Proposition B does more than just allow for construction of a privately-financed new ballpark in China Basin — Proposition B will create an economic boost that benefits every San Franciscan.

Built with no general fund money, this intimate new park will be transit accessible with a neighborhood feel. The new China Basin park will offer the historic charm of old ballparks with all the modern amenities. Proposition B will allow a new ballpark that is:

**PRIVATELY-FINANCED** Unlike previous ballpark proposals, Proposition B calls for no new taxes, no general fund money and no taxpayer liability. That adds up to a sure win and a safe bet for every San Franciscan. **TRANSIT ACCESSIBLE** With a new streetcar stop right outside, Caltrain down the block, BART a quick walk away and even its own ferry dock — our ballpark will be the most transit accessible baseball facility in the country. **AN ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT BOOST** The new China Basin ballpark will generate millions of dollars in revenue and thousands of new jobs for local residents. The ballpark's economic benefit is estimated at more than \$100 million a year — every year. **ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE** The state-of-the-art lighting and sound insulation will reduce both noise and light "halo" at night. Its convenient and transit accessible location will help limit automobile use.



On March 26th, please join campaign co-chairs Senator Quentin Kopp, Rev. Cecil Williams and Roberta Achtenberg, as well as Mayor Willie Brown, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, both the San Francisco Democratic and Republican parties, and neighborhood groups from every corner of San Francisco in support of Proposition B — the ballpark we want to fund the services we need.

**GET INVOLVED: CALL 1-800-5GIANTS TO VOLUNTEER**

*<sup>1</sup>* Paid for by San Franciscans for a Downtown Ballpark, sponsored by the San Francisco Giants to construct a ballpark in China Basin with no general fund money, a committee for Proposition B. John F. Lee, Treasurer, 625 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. ID #960003



# GANGSPEAK

To My Godson Orlando

## My World

In my world there is lots of trouble  
It slowly crumbles at every corner  
Each time I step out the house  
I wonder if today  
Will I make it  
So much violence surrounds me  
because I chose the wrong path  
Day and night  
Standing on a street corner  
Just wasting my life  
On the streets  
Now I have reached this human zoo  
---Prison--- and  
I cry deep inside  
Because I miss my family and you,  
my Godson,  
Please listen to me  
Dont try to follow my world  
All you will do is hurt yourself  
Worst of all, you will hurt  
your mother and father  
The streets today are changing  
rapidly

People are killing each other  
over colors  
daily  
Even if people try to change you, for  
the worse, dont listen and chose  
The right path  
As you get older you will face  
a lot of choices  
Listen close to your heart  
it wont lead you wrong  
In time you will understand what  
Im saying to you  
So, please dont try to follow this  
world that I have entered.

Love Always Nino,  
Steve

Gang members, this is your column.  
This is your voice. This is your opportunity  
to speak out. Send your words, poems, rap  
songs, and artwork to Deanne Berger-  
Moudgil, Column Editor, GangSpeak, c/o  
New Mission News, 777 Valencia Street,  
S.F. 94110. Or page Deanne at 227-6338.  
Messages can be left at 864-6531.



## THE NEW MISSION NEWS BIER LIST

COMPILED BY KURT BIER

### #8 HOMELESS FOLKS

What's the greatest nation in the world? Donation! What's the greatest city in the world? Generosity! Isn't that right? Come on folks, just a dime, a nickel, a penny, anything! A rock? No? All right then, have a good night now. What's that? That new Indian place? Yeah, it's just down the street a couple of blocks, next to that fancy laundromat. Hey thanks. No, I'll get it. Thanks again, sir.

Where'd that go? I wonder if it's a quarter, it looked like a quarter. Damn, I hope it didn't fall down the sewer. Ahh, there it is, a shinny newvideo game token? Assholes, well maybe I can -- Hey! Friend, want to buy a video game token? I'll let it go for a dime, though it set me back two bits. How about a nickel then? A penny? Okay, okay, just askin'.

Let's see here 20, 30, 31, 32, 33, one dollar and 33 cents. One hundred pennies for food, drink, smokes, clothes, entertainment, and educating myself. Well, I already have six cigarette butts, a half cup of soda from the garbage outside the burger shack, yesterday's *Datebook* section, and I'm clothed such as it is, which leaves only food. And for a dollar and a quarter, plus eight cents tax, I can get a hot, delicious slice of cheese pizza with a penny left over. A penny, a goddamn penny.

I wish I had a dog. Betty, she's got a dog and she can pick up 20 bucks on a Saturday. People will always stop for a dog, look at a dog, pet it and give it a quarter. And you know it's not because you are cold and hungry, but because the dog looks cold and hungry. Most folks won't even look you in the eye; I've gone whole days without another human being lookin' me in the eye. You want to yell and jump around just to get someone to see you, to acknowledge that you exist, and even if they won't give you nothin', if they at least look at you, you know you're there.

It's worst when it rains. There's nowhere to go to get away from it. And once your gear gets wet, there's a long and miserable time ahead of you until your stuff even starts to dry out. You know how it is to be cold and wet: every muscle

quivers as your body tries desperately to stay warm, and the only thing on your mind is how nice it'll be to be warm again. But if you haven't eaten in a couple of days, your body quits shivering, and a heavy, deadly tired sets in. And you know you've got to keep moving, with no prospect of getting dry to keep you goin', hoping, but never knowing, when you'll reach a tolerable level of discomfort again.

The funny thing is, the safe, secure world is so close. I see it everywhere and it wets my mouth at every turn. But I can't get near it. And the barriers that keep me out are so thin: one pane of glass separates me from a hot meal in a comfy chair, or from a living room with a couch and TV, or from endless rows of clothes or food. Sometimes the walls aren't even physical; I can't be a part of most of the indoor city, I know they'll kick me out before I even consider going in most of the buildings everyone else walks in and out of over and over and over. It's hard to believe anyplace else exists but the dirty, endless sidewalks.

Anyway. Hey what's the greatest nation in the world?

So don't look away. This month's list consists of organizations that help the homeless.

1. **Homes Not Jails** - Dedicated to converting vacant buildings into housing for the homeless -- and tweaking the establishment while they're at it.

2. **St. Peter's Housing Committee** - Preventing landlords from exacerbating problems through capricious evictions, St. Peter's fights tirelessly for tenants rights.

3. **The Coalition On Homelessness** - Like it sounds.

4. **Ayuda** - Primarily helping Latino and Latina residents, Ayuda confronts the dual-edged problem of homelessness and structural racism.

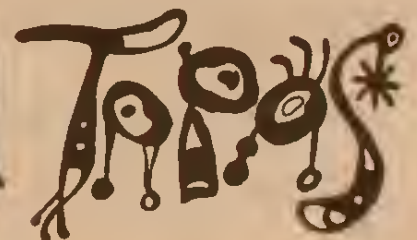
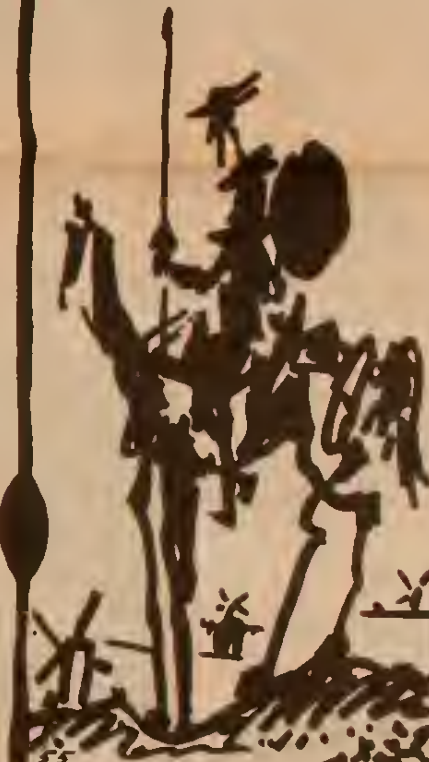
5. **Family Rights and Dignity** - Fighting for the most fundamental of rights.

6. **Mano a Mano** - They provide outreach services to immigrants furthest from safety.



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# ROXIE

## C I N E M A

**March - April 1996**

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 Admission: \$6; Senior/Child: \$3  
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 (First show Wed, Sat, Sun)

**FRI MARCH 8 - WED MARCH 13**  
**BELA TARR TRIBUTE!**


Hungarian filmmaker Bela Tarr is slowly emerging as one of the most distinctive cinematic talents in the world, although it has taken him six films and a career that began twenty years ago to reach this point. The Roxie, in association with the San Francisco Cinematheque and the Hungarian Film Union presents four of this modern master's most challenging films.

**FRI MAR 8 & WED MAR 13**  
**DAMNATION**

Made a year before the Berlin Wall fell, this is the quintessential film to mark the coming end of Communism. It centers around a group of four people, all plotting and scheming against each other in ways that dramatically reflect the turbulence of their world. With Miklos Szekely, Vall Korokes, Hedi Tommosy. Directed by Bela Tarr. In B&W. 35mm. 116 mins. 1988. HUNGARY. FRI AT 7:00, 9:30. WED AT 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

**SAT & SUN MAR 9 & 10**  
**SATANTANGO**

While DAMNATION caught the mood immediately before the fall of the Communist dream, SATANTANGO probes a kind of post-Communist despair. The film is set in a country village, a bleak outpost where a strange group of survivors gathers. When an outsider arrives with a promise of a new life, they are all prepared to listen. This seven-hour epic will be played once each day. Directed by Bela Tarr. B&W. 35mm. 435 mins. 1994. HUNGARY/GERMANY/SWITZERLAND. SAT & SUN AT 2:00 ONLY. SPECIAL ADMISSION PRICE: \$9.

**MON MAR 11**  
**THE PREFAB PEOPLE**

A claustrophobic, relentless examination of the stresses experienced by a young couple with two small children. The daily details of their lives are brilliantly captured, providing the audience with disturbing conclusions that question their dreams and their future. With Judit Pogany, Robert Koltai. Directed by Bela Tarr. Color. 35mm. 102 mins. 1982. HUNGARY. MON AT 7:00, 9:30.

**TUE MAR 12**  
**ALMANAC OF FALL**

A psychodrama in the tradition of Ingmar Bergman, this film focuses on a bizarre assortment of characters, all residing in the same apartment building. Eager to confess their fears and inadequacies, the group releases intense pain, humiliation and anxiety. With Hedi Temessy, Miklos Szekely. Directed by Bela Tarr. In Color. 35mm. 119 mins. 1984. HUNGARY. TUE AT 7:00, 9:30.

**WED MAR 13**  
**DAMNATION**

(see Friday, March 8 for details)

**THUR MARCH 14**
**The Roxie's 20th Birthday Anniversary!**  
**THE LONG, LONG TRAILER**


One of the wildest and funniest comedies of the Fifties. Lucy and Desi buy a huge trailer and take to the road! One wacky thing after another, this riotous movie will have you rolling! Starring Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz. Directed by Vincente Minnelli. In Color. 35mm. 103 mins. 1954. Free champagne and cake, lots of swell door prizes. ALSO: A Lucy & Desi Look-alike Contest! THUR DOORS OPEN AT 6:30; MOVIE AT 8:00 ONLY!

**FRI MARCH 15 - SUN MARCH 17**
*Peter Greenaway's latest!*
**THE BABY OF MACON**


A beautiful baby boy is born to a grotesque old hag and is deemed a miracle child when the infant's virginal older sister claims the baby is hers. She's driven to exploit the child for its sacramental potential — with dire results. BABY OF MACON is one of Greenaway's most lavishly stylish films, featuring incredible costumes and stunning sets. With Julia Ormond, Ralph Fiennes. Written and directed by Peter Greenaway. Color. 35mm. 122 mins. 1993. NETHERLANDS/France. WEST COAST THEATRICAL PREMIERE. FRI AT 7:00, 9:40. SAT & SUN AT 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40.

**MON MARCH 18 - WED MARCH 20**  
**ELEMENT OF CRIME**


The first feature film from the director of THE KINGDOM: a sepiatone, hypnotic who-dunnit about a retired homicide detective recruited back into service after a 13 year exile to solve a particularly vicious string of serial murders. "Staggeringly effective in his use of sweeping, soaring visuals!" — Kirk Ellis. Starring Michael Elphick, Esmond Knight. Written and directed by Lars von Trier. In Color. 35mm. 104 mins. 1986. DENMARK. PREMIERE. MON & TUE AT 7:00, 9:15. WED AT 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15.

**THUR & FRI MARCH 21 & 22**  
**BLOOD SISTERS**


A new documentary about the women's leather S/M community! BLOODSISTERS discusses coming out as a leatherdyke, butch/femme politics, role playing issues, the legalities of S/M and limits of consensuality. Including footage from titleholder competitions in San Francisco, the 1993 March on Washington D.C., the 1994 Stonewall March in NYC and graphic footage of actual play scenes! Music by Frightwig and Typhoon. Produced and directed by Michelle Handelman. In Color. 3/4" Video. 77 mins. 1995. Director in person both nights with presents for the audience. Co-sponsored by Film Arts Foundation. THUR & FRI AT 7:00, 9:15.

**SAT MARCH 23**
*Noir Icons*
**OUT OF THE PAST**

The classic 40's Noir, and the biggest hit of last fall's Film Noir Fest. A private eye plunges headlong into love, avarice, murder and redemption! Starring Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer, Kirk Douglas. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. In B&W. 35mm. 97 mins. 1947. USA. SAT AT 4:20, 8:00.

**NIGHTFALL**


A fast-paced, stylish thriller about an innocent man hounded by cops and killers alike! From the novel by David Goodis. Starring Aldo Ray, Anne Bancroft, Brian Keith. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. B&W. 35mm. 80 mins. 1957. USA. SAT AT 2:45, 6:20, 9:45.

**SUN MARCH 24**
*Noir Icons*
**THE KILLING**


One of the most popular noirs of all time — as well as one of the most influential films of the 50's, a racetrack robbery goes awry and all hell breaks loose. A marvel of style and substance. Starring Sterling Hayden, Marie Windsor, Elisha Cook, Jr. Directed by Stanley Kubrick. In B&W. 35mm. 84 mins. 1956. USA. SUN AT 1:30, 4:45, 8:00.

**CRIME WAVE**

One of the great discoveries of last fall's Noir Fest, a terrific thriller about a young ex-con and his efforts to go straight when his old pals try to bring him back into the fold. Starring Sterling Hayden, Gene Nelson, Phyllis Kirk. Directed by Andre De Toth. B&W. 35mm. 74 mins. 1954. USA. SUN AT 3:15, 6:30, 9:45.

**MON MARCH 25**
*4th Annual Benefit Show!*
**UP THE ACADEMY AWARDS**

Once again the Roxie invites you to spend Academy Awards night right here in our theater while the proceedings transpire LIVE on our big screen! That's right: lean back, relax and do whatever comes natural. A San Francisco tradition. Bring your own food and/or refreshments if you like. MON DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM.

**TUE MARCH 26**
**WALLS OF SAND**


A sensual drama of friendship between two women and their quest for freedom. Soraya, a young Iranian living in the US without a green card or friends, and Ellen, an agoraphobic single mother whose dreams and happiness have disappeared through isolation and fear. With Shirin Etesami, Jan Carty Marsh. Directed by Erica Jordan. B&W. 35mm. 115 mins. 1995. USA. TUE AT 7:00, 9:15.

**WED & THUR MARCH 27 & 28**
**THE JAR**


As in many Iranian films, there's more than a hint of political allegory beneath the surface of this wonderfully observant comedy-drama about the disruptive consequences of a crack appearing in the communal water jug at a village school. If you've yet to encounter the revelations of current Iranian cinema, this delightful film is a great place to start. With Behzad Khodaveisi, Fatemeh Azra. Directed by Ebrahim Foruzesh. Color. 35mm. 100 mins. 1992. IRAN. WED AT 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15; THUR AT 7:00, 9:15.

**FRI MAR 29 - THUR APRIL 11**
**FRISK**


A challenging and uncompromising vision of the dark fantasies entertained by one man. Because the lines of reality and fantasy are blurred, no one is innocent, not the characters, not the audience. Everyone is implicated. FRISK opens with a young man viewing five still photographs; terrifyingly erotic compositions of shadows and limbs. The effect these five photos have on his life and the media's infiltration of negative images as a form of entertainment and how these images affect a circle of people is the main focus of this film's message. FRISK is an experimental narrative, a flood of psychic and sexual violence: It unveils the monster in us all. From the controversial novel by Dennis Cooper. Starring Michael Gunther, Craig Chester, Parker Posey, Alexis Arquette, James Lyons. Directed by Todd Verow. In Color. 16mm. 83 mins. 1996. USA. U.S. THEATRICAL PREMIERE. NIGHTLY AT 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; SAT/SUN/WED MATS AT 2:00, 4:00.



# the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

## Car Wars

An earnest young woman told a Mission block club meeting about a campaign for more teen activities. She spoke for five minutes, emotionally describing kids' needs and the potential of her campaign to help. The audience listened politely, then a man raised his hand and asked "What about these people parking on my sidewalk?"

Crime, racism, jobs, garbage, and housing make the news, but for a lot of Missionites, issue number one is "Where do I put my car?" We're the second most densely populated neighborhood in San Francisco — Chinatown is first—but our residents' automotive affinities makes us the car capital of the city. As a result, we often park hocks from our residence, or park illegally. Neighbors try all sorts of maneuvers to get car space near their door, including parking in driveways or across sidewalks.

I've often thought the Supervisors should pass a law requiring Mission sidewalks to be built to the same specs as streets, since people treat them as parking lots anyway. Can someone tell me why you get a \$245 fine for hocking a wheelchair access ramp on a street corner, but hocking the whole sidewalk, which completely defeats the disabled person's attempt to get anywhere, rates only a \$25 fine? If the law is enforced, which usually only happens when a neighbor calls police.

## Residential Parking?

A longtime automotive dream of some East Mission residents may soon come to pass if the Board of Supes approves a Residential Parking Permit District (RPPD) around General Hospital (SFGH). For decades, the area from Bryant to Rhode Island Streets between 20th and 25th Streets has been host to hundreds of cars belonging to staff, patients and visitors to the Hospital, whose numbers have grown steadily. One organization, the East Mission Improvement Association, probably the Mission's oldest homeowners group, had tried repeatedly to get an RPPD without success. SFGH administration opposed the plan, since their people would be left with no place to park. Hospital power overwhelmed the neighbors' initiative.

In 1994, SFGH got funds to build an 800-stall parking garage, and their attitude changed. Administrators, concerned that staff would avoid paying garage fees by continuing to park on the street, began a campaign to build neighborhood support for an RPPD. They sponsored a series of catered monthly meetings on issues of community concern, but foremost on the agenda was usually the parking. They helped East Mission and other neighbors organize a petition drive for the RPPD, which in its final incarnation spreads all the way from Cesar Chavez to 18th and Bryant Streets! To have their block included in the



RPPD, activists had to get signatures from at least one occupant of half of the (legal) residences.

How will the RPPD work? All District streets will be posted as one-hour zones, meaning any car that parks more than an hour between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. will be ticketed. Those who live in the District and have a car registered to their address can pay an annual \$21 fee for a sticker entitling them to park in their own neighborhood. The idea is to force commuter cars off the streets and make room for the residents.

The SFGH RPPD has met with significant opposition. Opponents ask: Since 800 slots won't meet the demand, where are other visitors and patients to park? Why not wait until the garage opens to see if the RPPD is still needed? Many residents don't like having to pay to park on their own street, especially renters who may not be in the District long, or who have more than one car. People also worry about where their nonstickered visitors will park.

I live on a block (York between 20th and 21st) that has not signed on with the RPPD. Blocks on District borders generally get "heavily impacted," according to Department of Parking and Traffic engineer Stanley Chin. Anyone who can't park in the zone will park on your block instead. If you're on the border, you really

have no choice except to join up, because if your residence isn't part of the District, you can't buy a sticker. You can't park on anyone else's block, but they can park on yours.

In many areas, the sentiment for an RPPD stems from a desire to get rid of the poor folks' cars, not the commuters'. The District, like the rest of the Mission, includes a number of informal auto shops and cars whose longest trip is across the street on street sweeper day. Some neighbors see the RPPD as a way to get rid of these annoyances. The proposed RPPD includes blocks with plenty of off-street parking and few residents, many of whom will probably not buy stickers anyway. They just hope to get rid of the junkers. But their inclusion takes parking away from neighbors on other blocks, as well as commuters who work in the new businesses around Bryant Street.

At a televised February 13 meeting, the Supes' Government Efficiency and Labor Committee tabled the RPPD temporarily in response to protests from the Service Employees' International Union, which represents SFGH workers. The Union is concerned about the parking fees their members will pay. Some neighbors also spoke out against the District. Given hospital support, though, and without counter-organizing by opponents, the RPPD will likely be implemented. Parking problems will go on.

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You may qualify if you own your home; if your income falls within certain parameters; and/or, if you rent to low income residents. Guidelines and restrictions are aimed at preserving the existing affordable housing stock in the Mission District. Call MHDC to see if you qualify. Ask for Lucy Pineda-864-6432 (se habla español) to learn more about the loan program.

Mission Housing Development Corporation





## A Three Ring Circus

**L**una Sea Women's Performance Project brings *Three Ring*, a play of contorting, sexually spiritual high jinx to the Mission this month. Two members of a Midwestern circus family and an other gendered human cannon ball, take their show on the road, hooking up with a traveling circus, in this cartwheeling drama about sexual discovery in transcendental transition.

Celeste, Miriam Cronenberg, AKA Lady Lorinda and Her Legs of Steel plays a former dominatrix turned mother/manager of this fantastic menage. Serina Savage, Lisi DeHaas, Celeste's daughter discovers that she too is bound for freakdom when her mother throws her from the top of a silo and she bounces. Her love interest Caroli, Alexis Vaughn, AKA "Pat", springs with capricious delight from the mouths of cannons, always landing, but not always with grace. These three sideshow superstars discover the metaphysical truth that there is none, as they cavort hither and thither in and out of dusty towns and each other's arms.

Written and produced by Lisi DeHaas and directed by Adele Prandini, Luna Sea expresses delight at being able to be home to a collaboration between two generations of queer women theater makers. Lisi DeHaas, a refugee from the other coast, has performed throughout San Francisco, appearing at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 848, Southern Exposure, ATA, and Red Dora's Bearded Lady. Her solo piece, "Recipe For Grief" has been featured in The SF Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, at the T.W.E.E.D. New Works Festival, and at the Vineyard Theater in New York City.

Adele Prandini is in her fifth season as Artistic Director of Theater Rhinoceros. In 1974, she was the founder of IT'S JUST A STAGE, a lesbian theater company and worked as a writer, director, and performer with IJAS until 1980, and has remained active ever since.

*Three Ring* plays March 8-9 & 15-16, at 8:00 PM, with tickets priced between \$8-\$12, on a sliding scale. Call 863-2989 for reservations and information.

## Get The Lead Out!

**P**arents Encouraged to Participate in Mission Campaign to Remove Lead Dust from Homes

The S.F. Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Prevention Program will engage with St. Peter's Housing Committee in promoting the free use of a high efficiency vacuum cleaner capable of removing lead dust from homes to protect children from lead poisoning. This High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter vacuum will be available to low-income families with children in the Mission and Bernal Heights neighborhoods from March 18-30, 1996.

An ordinary household vacuum cleaner can spread lead dust around and does not take out lead dust from rugs, carpets, walls and other surfaces. According to Karen Cohn, Program Manager of the San Francisco Childhood Lead Prevention Program, "The filter of

a HEPA vacuum removes small particles of lead dust from the house, protecting children from the primary cause of childhood lead poisoning."

In San Francisco, approximately 90% of the houses may have lead because they were built before lead in paint was banned in 1978. Unsafe cleaning and remodeling methods can create dust and spread lead dust all over the house. A HEPA vacuum traps fine lead dust safely from homes, protecting families from lead exposure. Parents with children under six years of age, particularly those living in older housing are encouraged to utilize the HEPA vacuum.

For more information, contact the following agencies by March 8, 1996.

Department of Public Health Lead Prevention Program, 554-8930

St. Peter's Housing Committee, 282-8877.

## GALLERY OF THE COSMOS



MARGUERITE CARPENTER  
P.O. BOX 34252  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94101

### No Hogwash!

For some 5000 years, many astrologers have played a role in keeping people totally confused, or superficially informed, about astrology. Some folks may call it a code of ethics.

A few of the cats are out of the bag: with all of our modern day technology, computers often assist in the interpretation of horoscopes. But there are some

astrologers out there who basically just want make a name for themselves with the help of the public library. There are also sincere students who concentrate on good, simple explanations about the influences of the stars on all life on Earth.

Modern-day occultism tells us that there could be some room for improvement over the many useless, harmful, and meaningless popular misconceptions.

**Myth:** Astrology is a study of the uncanny effect of rays and vibrations from outer space.

**Truth:** There is no hocus pocus regarding planetary mass and the effects of gravitation. Electromagnetic forces are a scientific fact.

**Myth:** Astrology is a form of occultism, voodoo, witchcraft, fortune telling, etc.

**Truth:** Occultism is the practice of hidden, esoteric, unexplainable phenomena far beyond the understanding of the human mind.

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## HEART OF THE CITY

BY ROBIN SNYDERMAN

To some, public policy and urban planning are interesting stuff. For others, these topics are simply stuffy. I tend to vacillate between these two camps.

There are times when it's quite helpful to step back and theorize about what's best for our neighborhood. But theories can become pretentious or annoying if they aren't balanced by an ability to actually *do something* worthwhile. Then again, it's easy to get so involved with worthwhile projects that there's no time left to give any one thing the attention it deserves, let alone put it in perspective or do the work well.

### To Write or Not to Write

Every time I sit down to write this column I get an inadvertent reading of my own patience-for-policy-matters. Some days, it's hard to get beyond "There's so much work to do, and too many paralyzed thinkers not doing it. *Why write another word?*" Other days I recognize that neighborhood improvement and good government are not built on hard work alone, and that good planning and perspective are

critical to any successful endeavor. Those are the days I can muster up a word or two for print, remembering that a column is supposed to be a stabilizing, structural element.

This column was bolstered this week by an organizational consultant from a Mission-based agency who was asking people a number of questions about the needs of our neighborhood. As I talked to her, it became very apparent (and downright exciting) that many of our community's overriding concerns are directly addressed by projects born out of policy priorities that were defined by community planning. There's got to be another way of phrasing that mouthful. Like,

### The Glass is Half Full

Think about it. In a year, if all goes well with the Mission's soon-to-be-awarded Enterprise Community funds, the outcomes of five new endeavors will include (a) putting this neighborhood on the beaten track of tourist stops, (b) initiating a youth-run business that will increase the cleanliness of our streets, (c) reducing

school drop-out rates, (d) increasing access to childcare around the clock, and (e) stabilizing a handful of the Mission's troubled residential hotels.

The Enterprise funds are giving this neighborhood the rare opportunity to put some money where its mouth is. Economic development and youth empowerment are always among the top concerns of our community. Four of the above five projects directly address these two areas. The fifth project, residential hotel stabilization, has a somewhat different origin.

### There's No Place Like Home

When people who chose to participate in the Enterprise Community Planning Process were voting on their primary concerns, the issue of affordable housing received more votes than any other category, including economic development and youth empowerment.

Everybody recognizes that neighborhood stability and decent housing go hand in hand. Nonetheless, people's opinions and priorities about the subcategories under the affordable housing category sprawled across the page.

Home ownership. Code enforcement. New construction. Senior housing. Family housing. Emergency housing. Transitional housing. Special needs housing.

Many of these subcategories received as much support as they did criticism. Unfortunately, policy discussions around affordable housing in our neighborhood tend to be constructive only when those sitting around the table are like-minded. Those who disagree with one another have had little success reaching consensus in recent years.

Of all the subcategories under affordable housing, residential hotel stabilization has historically been the least

controversial. Over 50 mismanaged and dilapidated hotels in the Mission represent a sadly under-utilized affordable housing stock. The 2000 units available in these structures nearly equal the number of homeless people annually "based" in the Mission. Sadly, many of the individuals currently rotating in and out of these buildings are the neighborhood's most vulnerable and volatile citizens.

People who have fallen through the cracks of our social service and criminal justice systems frequently land in the solitary rooms of for-profit residential hotels. Precisely those individuals requiring the most thoughtful attention and support, in other words, wind up in the hands of hotel staff who may be untrained, disinterested and -- at times -- antagonistic in their dealings.

Whether or not people are sympathetic to hotel residents, they are frustrated with the mismanagement and crime associated with these properties. Thus, the ability to reach consensus around residential hotel stabilization. Still, it is important to recognize the need for improved dialogue around other venues for affordable housing in the Mission. In the name of neighborhood improvement, some of our community's most divisive battles have been waged around differences of opinion on affordable housing, and it doesn't make sense.

### The Empty Half of the Glass

In a year, if all goes well with the voter-approved crime prevention money (Proposition Q), the Mission will have learned a thing or two about conflict resolution and consensus building. The new Neighborhood Safety Partnership will soon hire 12 community-based outreach workers, including one solely focused on the Mission, to build bridges and link individuals and community groups with appropriate resources and training programs. Housing is one of the many areas the Partnership is prepared to address.

While Enterprise money will finance some recognized solutions to neighborhood woes in 1996 and 1997, Proposition Q funds might enable us to develop a few new approaches to problem-solving in the years to come.

So, you've got to admit it: Whether you find public policy and urban planning mesmerizing or monotonous, stuffy or spellbinding -- this neighborhood's taking some impressive strides. We may not know where we're going, but at least plans are clear enough that no one's getting lost.

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# Mission District Calendar

## MARCH

1

FRIDAY



**Fight the Right's Fight Right** - Chloe Watts, coordinator for April 14's "Fight the Right March," and Carole Seligman, author, chairperson, speak, A Socialist Action Forum (SAF). 8PM, Socialist Action Bookstore, 3425 César Chávez St., \$3-\$1.50 firm, 821-0458.

**Uhh, We'll Think of Something** - Carole Corson and Company perform *Weaving in the Words, Dancing in the Web*, improvisational dance and story in collaboration with musicians. "Corson is a powerful engaging storyteller..." (Oakland Tribune). 8:15PM, James Howell Studio, 661/2 Sanchez St., \$8-\$12, (510) 547-4467, Also Mar. 2, 9 (8PM), 10 (7:30PM).

**Invention and Excellence in Dance - Edge Makers**, part of the EDGE Festival, is a lot of women acting dancing, choreographing, telling stories, improvising, and healing, Curated by Mercy Sidbury. 8PM, Dancer's Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St., \$10-\$12, 824-5044, Also Mar. 2,3,21,22,23,24.

2

SATURDAY



**Kvamme and Bohm** - Margaret Martin the former plays the later, as well as Ernst, Beethoven, and Mozart in an organ concert. 5PM, The Episcopal Church of Saint John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St., Free, 861-1436.

**Did Someone Call the Fire Department?** - Radio Valencia is back and about the same as ever, come, relax and listen to the smokin' rhythms of Glen Spearman, Lisle Ellis, and Donald Robinson. Be aware. 7PM, Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St. at 23rd, \$5, 826-1199.

**Basement Refugees** - By Rodrigo Duarte Clark and set in a Mission District basement pits Marxist hooliganism against religious zealotry, very accessible. El Teatro de la Esperanza, 446 Valencia St., 255-2320 for more info., Thru Mar. 17th.

3

SUNDAY



**Cine Video Cubano - Hasta Cierta Punto**, a gripping drama; in Spanish. 8PM, Pena del Sur, 2870-A 22nd St., \$3 don., 550-1101.

**Start to Stop Police Violence** - National Day of Protest on the 5th Anniversary of the Rodney King beating. Come for a march to police headquarters, fiery orators, and chanting, "NO justice, NO peace" no more please. 4PM, 16th and Mission Sts., Free, Hang out at Muddy Waters for more info.

**History's Herstories** - A visual art exhibition of mixed media works by Virginia Bowen examining the physical and mental constraints faced by women throughout history; opening reception. 3PM, LUNA SEA, 2940 16th St., Free, 863-2989.

4

MONDAY



**Major Lyric Voice** - Intersection for the Arts welcomes new Writer-in-Residence Sherman Alexie with 3 days of readings, eloquent chats, and coffee. "Alexie writes with grit and realism—" Author of *Reservation Blues*. At various sites, call Intersection for the Arts for more information, 626-2787.

**It was Quiet—Too Quiet** - That's because its Meditation Week in San Francisco, and if you don't already know how to meditate or have recently moved from the Midwest don't miss these riveting classes, they're free remember. 7PM, Noe Valley Bethany United Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., Free, 664-1327.

5

TUESDAY



**FBI Secrets** - is former federal agent M. Wesley Swearingen's (not his real name) ringing indictment of the National Police. Detailed first-hand accounts of FBI-orchestrated assassinations and other corrupt stuff; meet a nice guy too. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., Free, 282-9246.

**Te Toca La Tinta** - Una clase de escritura para bisexuales y gay Latinos en español, comprende?6:30PM, Proyecto Contrasida Por Vida, Horace Mann Middle School #101, Gratis, 864-7278.

**The Go Down Low Down** - Jack Davis answers your questions about men's sex toys, covering selection and use of dildos, butt plugs, cock rings, pumps, vibrators, and exhaust manifolds. Men only. 8PM, Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., \$5, 974-8980.

6

WEDNESDAY

**Bacon's Trip** - Daniel Bacon, author of *Walking San Francisco on the Barbary Coast Trail* will be giving a visual presentation of the Barbary Coast. 7PM, Glen Park Books, 2788 Diamond St., Free, 586-3733.

8

FRIDAY



**Coco Local** - Coco Fusco comes to MT with *English is Broken Here*, a collection of essays on black film, art by African Americans, Latino and Cuban artists, and some performance pieces; Don't miss it, o-kay? 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., Free, 282-9246.

**Firestone and Water** - An artist talk will be held in conjunction with *Slippery Water*, a one-person show featuring mixed media sculpture by Alan Firestone. 7:30PM, Four Walls, 3160-A 16th St., Free, 626-8515.

**Social Condimentary** - Satirist Kirk Mustard will perform his one-person show, *Mustard on America*; Humor, parody, and satirical comedy about life in the United States, \$1 off with own wiener. 8PM, Shotwell Studios, 3252-A 19th St., \$7-\$10, 695-1939.

9

SATURDAY



**Learnability Volunteer Orientation** - San Francisco School Volunteers'



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**Learnability Project** presents a training workshop and orientation; Meet real Learnability volunteers and get involved. 10AM, New College-Valencia Theater, 777 Valencia St., Free, 274-0250.

**Mr. Johnny Cash** - And other 60's crooners (Elvis et al) perform for you on video, musical lyricism and white trash testimonials. LIVE-the Collards and Whistleaires. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

**Arabesque Concertesque Dancesque** - Presents *Different Dance Visions*, directed by Pepper Smith, a program of dance works by lots of famous local directors: Newhouse, Noton, Loumbas, and Smith. 8PM, Brady Street Dance Center, 60 Brady St., \$7/\$4, Also Mar. 10 (3PM).

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# 10 SUNDAY



**Trill Tykes** - The San Francisco Children's Chorus present their spring concert featuring the chorus' favorite pop tunes. Urs Leonhardt Steiner, is the director, ya. 3PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., Free, 647-3890.

# 12 TUESDAY



**He was Once Though** - Monica and Steve Amtson read poetry, open mike follows so you can too, hooray. 7PM, 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St., Free, 826-6886.

# 13 WEDNESDAY

**The Price of Paternalism** - Selma James, London based activist/author, will speak on: "The Global Economy: Women's Hidden Work," Co-sponsored by the SF Greens/Wages for Housework Campaign, rice and beans available for small fee. 7:30PM, New College Cultural Center, 766 Valencia St., \$5-\$10, 626-4114.

**Specific - Hidden Parts**, a 23-minute film featuring an all-Latino cast, and which drew a crowd of 121 people when last shown, returns to the Mission, shot in San Francisco and well received in Austin, must see. 8PM, Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St., \$1, 564-6462.

# 14 THURSDAY



**Queer & Latina=\$25** - Focus Group for Queer Latinas, share thoughts, eat some pizza, and get 25 bucks; must be queer, Latina, and under 25, pretty good deal. 6:30PM, Proyecto Contraseña Por Vida, 2973 16th St., -\$25, 864-7278.

**Let It All Hang Out** - Exhibitionism for the Brazen, a seminar taught by Carol Queen, will feature *Talking Dirty*, *Exotic Dancing*, *Dressing Up*, and *Speaking in Tongues*; prayer group follows. 8PM, Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., \$20, 974-8980.

# 15 FRIDAY



**Brazen Brazilians** - An evening of bilingual poetry, prose, and oral history by women writers from the Bay Area's Brazilian community, vivid tales. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, \$3-\$5 none shunned, 282-9246

**3 Too Many** - Spellbound Productions presents *Three Stories*, three one act plays with narration: Lauren Lundgren's *The Coming of the Dragon King*, and others, Tara Reid and Marc Sabin. 8PM Fri. & Sat./3PM Sun., Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St., \$10-\$12, 585-3955, Thru Mar. 31.

# 16 SATURDAY



**What, This Isn't a Drive Through?** - More Jazz at Radio Valencia: Oluyemi Thomas with Gino Robair and separately, Roberto DeHaven. 7PM, Radio Valencia, 1199 Valencia St., \$5, 826-1199.

**Free Stuff** - Shay, Michael and Martin Black share an afternoon of Irish words and music at one of SF's most historical and traditional Irish bars, free corned beef and admission; no Limeys. Noon, 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St., Free, 826-6886.

# 17 SUNDAY



**ASCAP Award Winners** - SF Chamber Singers presents "A New World," exploring and celebrating contemporary choral gems from Cuba and the Americas; music from Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, and more. 5:30PM, Mission Dolores Basilica, 16th St. & Dolores St., Adv. \$13.50/\$10.50 \$15 at door, 771-3352.

# 18 MONDAY



**Get the Lead Out** - With the HEPA vacuum (got no idea), but apparently these vacuums will be available for you to use, through Mar. 30, to safely remove lead dust, weird. Call St. Peter's Housing Committee for more information 282-8877.

# 20 WEDNESDAY



**Flee Leonard Peltier** - At a protest with the theme of "Civil Disobedience for Leonard Peltier," unjustly jailed and called unpleasant names, it's time for action, or something like that. 6:30AM (that's right), Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave., Freedom, 386-4373.

**Byrd Brainy - Bristle**, presented by internationally renowned Donald Byrd/The Group, is an explosive, sensual, and ceaselessly energetic full-evening work (sounds like it), contemporary urban society, intimacy, and loneliness. 8PM, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., \$12.50/\$20.50, 621-7797, Also Mar. 21-24, 30, 31 at 2PM.

# 23 SATURDAY



**Look but don't Touch** - the obsessive voyeurism of some male homosexuals; Isabel Hegner's 20 minute film on Robert Mapplethorpe, *Wallin's Black Sheep Boy*, ritual undressing, and more. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

# 27 WEDNESDAY



**Out Open Reading** - Come read your works at the Bay Area's only monthly open reading for the Queer Community. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., Free, 282-9246.

**Home Grown - THE BEAST: The Domestic Violence Project**, by Donald Byrd, explores the role of emotional and psychological violence in the arena of domestic violence. 8PM, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., \$12.50/\$20.50, 621-7797, Thru Mar. 29.

# 29 FRIDAY



**Sign Up** - Registration for new students for CMC 1996 Spring Quarter Classes

and private lessons, all fees on a sliding scale, some courses tuition-free. 3PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., 647-6015, Also Mar. 30 1PM.

# 30 SATURDAY

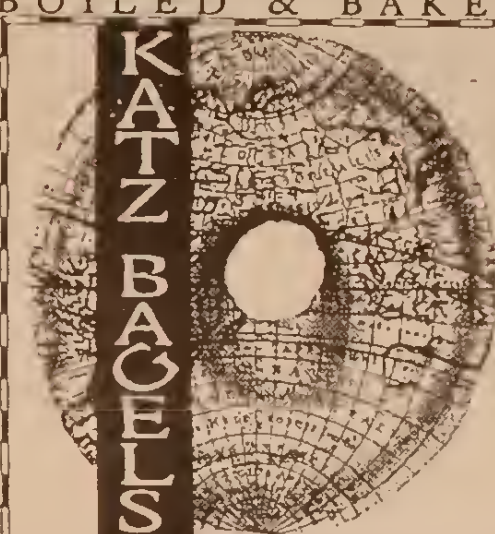


**De Rompe Y Raja** - Por demanda popular vuelven estos grandes exponentes de la cancion criolla y el folklore a afro-peruano; Juan Cuba, Carlos Pastor, Pedro Rosales y mas. 10PM, Pena Del Sur, 2870-A 22nd St., \$3, 550-1101.

**César Chávez Honored** - At Si Se Puede Mural Dedication and Celebration; a Mayan Blessing, speakers from United Farmworkers of America, folk music, food, information booths, and hands-on activities. Noon., César Chávez Elementary School, Shotwell between 22nd & 23rd, Free, 285-2287.

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# "Green 16" and Other Good Ideas

Ti-Couz Serves Up Great Crepes and Original Thinking About Work and the Environment

by Victor Miller

In the popular imagination (based largely on reality), restaurants are run by dictatorial proprietors whose absolute rule is enforced by outbursts of volcanic rage. In the trendier dining spots, the aristocratic chef's icy aloofness serves as a counterpoint to the hot-tempered owner. The staff carries on in sullen resentment at the management's disdain, sustained by tips and visions of retribution. While this is not the case in all restaurants, it is a scenario played out in many of your more upscale establishments.

At the other end of the spectrum are experiments in workplace innovation unrelated to business viability that, while producing an amiable job ambiance, are prone to rapid insolvency.

Ti-Couz, that trendy but affordable creperie at 16th and Valencia, has avoided these two extremes and, in its short four year history, has developed a unique *teamworkplace* that has enhanced not only the restaurant's popularity but its profitability as well.

Successful experimentation in another area, environmental responsibility, has been the inspiration for creating a network of environmentally aware businesses and residents along 16th Street called the "Green 16," which Ti-Couz personnel are hoping to get off the ground this month.

To the shock of some Ti-Couz customers, in January the restaurant stopped providing take-out containers for leftovers as an effort to reduce waste. According to Ti-Couz owner Sylvie Le Mer, only about 3% of leftovers are actually eaten; 75% - 80% is simply forgotten at the restaurant. Most of the rest dies a lingering death in the back reaches of home refrigerators or is discarded when the prospective snacker discovers that crepes, unlike pizza, do not keep well.

Ti-Couz staff now advise people against over-ordering and thus wasting

food, an unsettling concept to some consumer-oriented diners nurtured from infancy on the sanctity of their God-given right to a doggy bag.

At the urging of Ti-Couz employees Sonia Ondish and Ocean Berg, San Francisco State University did an analysis of the creperie's "waste stream" and determined what could be recycled, what could be composted, and what was just plain old garbage. Recycling bins are now in place, and a community garden is sought for composting. Along with the doggy bag ban, these simple steps have put Ti-Couz in the vanguard of environmentally correct business practices. They also parallel city government's campaign for a "Sustainable City," which aims to reduce waste in the private sector by 50% by the year 2000.

City government has been both helpful and obstructive in Ti-Couzs plan to maximize recycling efforts. On the one hand, the San Francisco Recycling Center has been a valuable source of information and assistance; on the other hand, Health Department regulations preclude basic waste-saving policies such as the use of recyclable doilies.

Le Mer feels a large part of the problem of getting businesses to go green lies in misinformation. "It's really cost effective," she says. "There's a myth that recycled products and recycling are more expensive. For recycling the effort is in disciplining yourself to put [materials] in the right place; it's not the cost at all."

Le Mer does not label herself an environmentalist. "I'm just someone who wants to make a difference in what I use and what I abuse," she says.

## The Idea of Unmanagement

The environmental organizing effort is an idea you would expect from a democratic workplace that functions without managers and doesn't hire



Ti-Couz proprietress Sylvie Le Mer Photo by Eugene Kettner

waiters.

Ti-Couz opened in June of 1992 with just 10 staff members. It doubled its floor space in February of 1995 and now employs 38 people, 25 full time, making it the largest employer on the 16th Street commercial strip. But getting hired is not just a matter of having a good resume or knowing somebody; it requires being accepted and evaluated by the staff. A rotating committee of employees reviews applicant resumes and refers the most promising ones to an interview committee, also composed of a rotating group of employees, that conducts a one-hour interview.

Le Mer becomes involved only after the second group reaches (or fails to reach) consensus. This system is designed to produce a congenial and efficient team and to avoid the horror, the horror, of many wage earners: working with idiot in-laws of the boss.

New employees are required to cross-train in two jobs, one of which is usually waiter, which is why Ti-Couz never hires waiters. Two weeks of training (five shifts per job) is followed by a three-month trial period and finally, a permanent position.

Le Mer says there are several advantages to the cross-training requirement: "It eliminates a lot of problems in communication because if you're doing somebody else's work, you have a lot more respect for what they do." It's also easier for employees to get emergency time off or to schedule vacations because there's a much larger pool of skilled replacements to call on.

And what about managers, those geeks with clipboards always breathing down your neck? Under the Ti-Couz system, they are eliminated. Staff meetings are held to vote for the most able people in a particular area (bartending, serving, kitchen work, etc.), and those people are

designated as captains of their respective areas for six months. Captains are paid at a higher rate for those hours they put as captains; they draw the same pay as anybody else when working their regular job. As captains, they bear the responsibility for anything that goes wrong or right in their area.

"It kind of centralizes the consensus process," says Le Mer. "It was hard getting it there, but now it's really easy. It was hard finding the management and the visionary tools to explain to them where I wanted to go with that. It's so much easier to blame things on the manager than to blame things on yourself. For me, the philosophy behind it is I want to be around empowered people." Le Mer hopes that eventually all employees will serve as captains.

Other aspects of the Ti-Couz system include a modified version of tip pooling. When servers post their total sales figures, 15% is allotted as tips, and a fourth of that 15% is placed in a common pool shared by all. Ti-Couz pays 25% of its employees' medical and dental benefits for the first year and 50% thereafter. One week of vacation time is allotted for each year on the job up to a maximum of four.

Le Mer believes the atmosphere created by all this constant labor/unmanagement refining pays by making Ti-Couz a warm, spontaneous place. This, just as much as the quality of the food, has contributed significantly to Ti-Couz's phenomenal popularity. "I see these people lined up on Friday or Saturday night, waiting patiently and just having a good time - and you know nobody waits around an hour and a half just to have a four dollar crepe," says Le Mer. "I think a lot of people come here because we've created something special. This makes me very happy."

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# Yamo: Authentic Thai Food at Bargain Prices

by Kevin Horwitz

**Y**amo Thai Kitchen is a cozy counter restaurant conveniently located on the corner of 18th and Mission. If you are looking for a large, ostentatious restaurant, you will not find it here. What you will find is an amazing selection of lunch specials for \$3.95, grilled to perfection by owner-chef Nan Thana, the fiery young Thai woman who opened Yamo's a couple of months ago on a shoestring budget. The restaurant is named after a woman warrior who's revered in Thailand as a kind-of Joan d'Arc. In Nakhon Ratchasima just outside Bangkok, a large statue of Yamo marks the site of an annual celebration honoring this famous warrior. Nan Thana has undoubtedly got some warrior in her, too, judging by the lightening speed with which she slices and dices those Thai dishes. Nan learned her skills with the knife during a decade long tenure as butcher.

If you like peanut sauce, *Kao Param*, *Pad Thai*, or *Pad Thai vegetarian* might appeal. *Kao Param* is delicately sauteed with slices of cabbage and spinach, your choice of chicken or beef, and ground peanut sauce. Served over a bed of rice, it is a filling and delicious meal. *Pad Thai* combines bean cakes and bean sprouts with sauteed chicken, and is served over pan-fried noodles instead of rice. *Pad Thai vegetarian* is made with egg, bean sprouts, and small chunks of browned tofu, and is served over pan-fried noodles.



Nan Thana fastest Thai cook in San Francisco Photo by Eugene Kettner

The ground peanut flavor permeates all three of these dishes, and the vegetables are cooked to just the right consistency.

Yamo has numerous other vegetarian selections, including spicy sauteed Japanese eggplant with garlic, or sauteed tofu with chili paste and string beans for

those who prefer a hotter, "biting" flavor. Soup lovers might enjoy soup noodles, the \$4.95 lunch special- it comes with your choice of roast duck, beef, or boneless chicken. For a medium-spicy treat, try the *Guai Tiew Tom Yum*. This has a little of everything- noodles, prawns, ground pork, fish cake, and calamari, floating in

a seasoned hot and sour broth! At these prices, you can definitely afford to experiment with the various specialties at Yamo, and if you go during regular lunch hours, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., you will get a bird's eye view of all of the Thai food that is prepared.

In addition to lunch, Yamo specializes in take-out food. The portions tend to be a little bigger for take-out, and you will find the service consistently careful and quick- so this might be just the thing for one of those leisurely evenings at home. The dinners range anywhere from \$5.95 to \$8.95 and include the full array of traditional Thai dishes. Try *Tom ka gai*, a coconut milk soup with chicken, mushrooms, and lime juice. Or sample the barbecue pork, thick strips of succulent meat marinated in garlic and served with a delicious house sauce. Thai iced tea or Thai iced coffee (priced at \$1.50) nicely compliments the meal. If you are still hungry after all of this authentic Thai food, go ahead and order dessert! Sticky rice with mangoes, in fact, is a perfect way to cap off the meal. You get several slices of mango with a scoop of rice that has a sweet, milky texture. It will leave you refreshed and pleasantly satisfied, without the "heaviness" of American desserts.

\*Yamo Thai Kitchen is located at 3406 18th Street... or reach them by telephone at 415-553-8911.

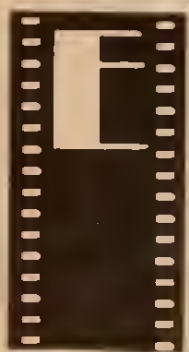
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# Rasoi: A Feast for the Eyes and the Palate

by Bronwyn Neal

In my favorite new cookbook, *Laxmi's Vegetarian Kitchen*, culinary goddess Laxmi Hiremath quotes from the memoir of Babur, founder of the Mughal empire in India: "Had my countrymen had the knowledge of spices the Indians have, I would have conquered the world." Rasoi, recently opened on Valencia Street, offers an excellent opportunity to taste for yourself what Babur meant.

All in all, Rasoi's menu is a delightful —and, with 26 entrees, comprehensive—assembly of flavors. Rasoi specializes in Northern Indian cuisine, which tends to steer clear of the mustard seed, turmeric, kari leaves, and chiles common to Southern Indian food, in favor of spices like cumin, coriander, cinnamon, nutmeg, bay leaves, and cloves. Everything tasted fresh, and it was an unexpected pleasure to find oil, often applied in Indian cuisine with alarming abandon, used with perfect restraint.

Rasoi describes itself as "Indian food with a new attitude"; that attitude was apparent from the moment I stepped through the restaurant's heavily varnished wooden door onto its hardwood floor. The decor, the work of local husband-and-wife team Enrique and Ana Chum-pitaz, is decidedly upscale, yet comfortable and attractive. Tawny, autumnal colors abound on every surface, including those in the restroom, which gave me the distinct feeling of stepping into an Henri Matisse painting. An impressive cosmic collage graces the bar, and each table sports a unique, hand-painted design.

The same attention to detail was present in the food. We started off our meal with a round of lassi, a traditional Indian yogurt beverage not dissimilar to a milkshake. I sampled my friend's mango lassi, which was faultless, but it was my own rosewater lassi—thick, creamy, and sweet with a healthy sprinkling of nuts—

that made me positively ecstatic.

Lassi was the perfect companion for our first appetizer of vegetable samosas. Rasoi's version of the plump, triangular turnovers are filled with the traditional seasoned potato and peas, and are served with tangy tamarind chutney and mint yogurt, which compete to upstage them. Another mouthwatering sauce, tomato garlic, came with our second appetizer of fresh vegetables dipped in spiced garbanzo batter and deep fried. The crunchy, flavorful batter contrasted nicely with the fresh broccoli beneath.

If I had to order a different appetizer, I would probably pick the Jingha Til Tinka, skewered prawns coated with sesame seeds and marinated in mace and cardamom-flavored yogurt. That's because the prawn entree I ordered was truly smashing. The Tandoori Jingha, or jumbo prawns with herbs and spices broiled over charcoal, appeared at our table what must have been mere seconds after it was taken out of the Tandoori oven, impossibly hot and spluttering in its dish, a cloud of steam half obscuring the prawns' bed of delicious onions and green peppers.

Nearly as impressive was the Aloo Chutneywale, potato halves stuffed with paneer cheese and simmered in tamarind chutney and tomatoes. This dish was the most gourmet looking and tasting entree we ordered—I couldn't stop myself from picturing the cook diligently stuffing the cheese into the potato so that the layer looked level—but my downscale dinner party held no grudges, and the entree quickly disappeared.

The Murgh Tikka Masala, chicken simmered in a cream tomato sauce with fenugreek and a dash of brandy, was not quite up to the level of the Aloo, but its shortcomings were nothing a teaspoon of cayenne pepper couldn't fix. Ordered spicy, its subtle seasoning was certainly tasty, but needed more of the kick that makes this Indian dish my favorite.



Photo by Eugene Kettner

Rasoi's ample servings were made all the more ample by the dahl and basmati rice that came with our large plates. The dahl, intricately spiced stewed lentils, had a way of teasing my taste buds that impressed me more with every mouthful especially as I came back to it as a break between the other entrees. Chewy nan bread comes in more-than-adequate sized baskets; both plain and garlic were still warm from the oven and delicious.

For dessert, I recommend the Kulfi, or Indian ice cream with saffron, pistachios, and raspberry syrup. If the fact that saffron is the world's most expensive spice (it takes about a quarter of a million saffron crocus flowers to produce one pound of saffron) isn't enough of a reason to order Kulfi, its velvety texture is. It tastes great with a cup of chai, a good, strong tea whose body is so substantial it approaches coffee.

Between the dinner and the decor (both of which were handsomely complemented by our server's dry wit), Rasoi was an altogether lavish sensory experience. If

Rasoi has any drawback, it's that the prices are on the lavish side, too, for the Mission. The six vegetarian entrees are either \$8.50 or \$9.50, and meat entrees range from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Incidentally, if you are a lamb fan, Rasoi offers eight lamb entrees, including such delectable-sounding treats as Adraki Chaamp, or ginger lamb chops in a creamy cumin-based marinade, and Keema Sali, or spicy lamb mince with fresh mushrooms, tomatoes, and straw potatoes. (Rasoi also offers six chicken entrees and four seafood entrees.)

But don't let the menu prices scare you away. If you actually live in the Mission and don't have a Noe Valley or Castro income, the \$5.95 all-you-can-eat lunch buffet (served Monday through Friday) is definitely the way to go.

Rasoi is located at 1037 Valencia Street, between 21st and 22nd Streets. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.



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by Monica Conrady

March is the month when San Francisco's Carnaval season really starts to pick up. Now's the time to dust off the sequins, dig out the junk jewelry, get those hips moving and those toes tapping.

The 27th annual Friends of Brazil Carnaval Ball at the Galleria kicked things off in grand style. The wall-to-wall crowd enjoyed non-stop music and entertainment. Celia Malheiros, Liza Silva, and the Brazilian All-Stars Big Band belted them out between floor shows by Foga Na Roupa with Carlos Aceituno and Aquarela with Maria Sousa. Among those dancing up a storm on the upper stage was Rhonda Stagnaro and Rosie Lopez More. Rosie is featured in a new video, *Conga Drumming: A Beginner's Video Guide*. She hails from Havana's legendary Tropicana Nightclub -- definitely Cuba's loss and our gain, I'd say.

Speaking of Cuba, Sheila Kenny and Anita Amirrezvani recently spent two weeks in Havana studying popular dance at the Escuela Nacional del Arte with Caribbean Music and Dance Programs of Oakland. This company sponsors music and dance workshops in Cuba throughout the year (510-444-5412). Watch out for some cool new moves by these two lovely salseras.

Among those adding glamour and pizzazz to Mayor Willie Brown's inaugural party for the masses at Pier 45 in January were Samba schools Ginga Brasil, Samba do Coracao, and Escola Nova de Samba.

Mark your calendars for the annual King and Queen Contest to be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 31 at the Caribee Dance Center, 1408 Webster St., Oak-

land. Come and applaud this year's hopefuls as they strut their stuff. (For an application, call 415-826-1401.) The Bay Area abounds with creativity and talent, but Jean Luc Stora and Maria Sousa, last year's king and queen, will be a hard act to follow. Admission is free for contestants and \$5 for the rest of us.

As usual, Carnaval San Francisco will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 25 and 26, with the Grand Parade on Sunday. This year's theme is "Children's Fairy Tales." The identity of the Grand Marshall is not yet known. Stay tuned.

The cultures of Brazil and Haiti came together at Fort Mason Center in early February when Aluadomar, the Brazilian ensemble, and Blanche Brown's Group, Petit La Croix, joined forces for an evening of rhythm and dance. A superb show by all accounts.

Some phone calls around the Carnaval community produced the following news items.

Ms. Sweetwaist (a.k.a. Suzanne Ludlum) reports that the All Ah We Dance & Drum Ensemble has been researching children's fairytales. Their Carnaval theme is "How Calaloo came to be," a story that describes how different cultures came to Trinidad and mixed, just like the mix of ingredients that go into calaloo soup. Three Bay Area schools will participate.

Mas Salsa, the hot salsa group, is gearing up for its third year of Carnaval. Choreography will be by Sammy, who teaches New York-style salsa. Rehearsals will once again be held at Kimball's Carnaval in Emeryville. So if salsa is your thing, call Cindy Unruh for details (510-



562-6713).

Samba do Coracao will appear in the Ethnic Dance Festival the weekend of June 14-16. Mary Dollar, currently in Brazil for Carnaval, visited Recife and Olinda and saw lots of frevo dancing. Fernando di Sanjines says this year they are going to have "more fun, less work, more spirit, and less cost." And a red hot bateria.

Ginga Brazil's Conceicao Damasceno has also been in Brazil, with baby in tow. Ginga Brazil is planning a children's theme for Carnaval San Francisco; a series of parties is also planned.

The year got off to a good start for Chalo Eduardo and the Escola Nova de Samba when they appeared with Carlos Santana at the Embarcadero's huge New Year's Eve bash. Josephine Morada says this year's theme will be "Maracatu for the Saints," a processional tribute to four

Orishas. Children from Longfellow Elementary School will participate. Rehearsals start in March.

Hilda Reiner of Samba Tropical is undecided about her plans at this point. Last year, her contingent paraded with Betho Filho and Oju Oba. Hilda teaches hot samba rhythms Tuesdays and Thursdays at Beth Abram's dance studio (415-585-2195).

Every year, the siren call of the world's great Carnavals is heard and answered by local aficionados. To Brazil went Beicola, Betho, Conceicao, Mary, Chanita and Glenn, Paula and Henry, and Jan McDermott. Mary Kay Mitchell checked out New Orleans, and Louise Garberino was last heard of heading for Trinidad.

Chris Collins and his wife, Wendy, are back from Europe where they "did" three Carnavals. Chris will have many tales to tell, so watch this space next month!



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MOVING SWIFTLY  
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MY FIRST  
SIX WEEKS  
IN OFFICE



by Willie L. Brown Jr.

The most exciting thing about my first six weeks in office has been the overwhelming sense of optimism and enthusiasm that seems to have overtaken this city since I took office on January 8.

There appears to be a renewed commitment to getting things done, a citywide can-do attitude, bustling in the San Francisco breeze. This spirit of cooperation and activism has transcended my own election to the office of Mayor, and has permeated the everyday lives of people on the street, in their jobs, at their schools and in their homes.

Everywhere I go, I encounter San Franciscans who are interested in solving the City's problems, who are energetic in their endeavors to make the City a better place, and who are hopeful that, together, we can make it happen.

For my part, I intend to foster that can-do spirit, and to live up to the central promise I made on the campaign trail - that I would be an energetic public servant, someone who would get things done, and that I would address a number of critical issues immediately.

Since taking office, I have moved

quickly to improve our Municipal Railway system, to convene a San Francisco Economic Summit, to stabilize our public housing crisis and to fill city government with a collection of San Franciscans who reflect the City's diversity as well as its best interests.

Since Muni is one of the first priorities on virtually everybody's agenda, I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the actions I've taken to improve service in that area.

On Jan. 23, I directed the San Francisco Police Department, working with Muni officials, to begin what is called the Bus Inspection Program (BIP). Since that time, law enforcement officers have become a permanent fixture on Muni buses, increasing the visibility of police in our public transit system. BIP is designed to make both passengers and drivers feel safer.

What BIP does, essentially, is call on every beat patrol officer in the City to board a Muni bus at least twice during his or her shift. BIP pumps 1,000 officers into the transit system daily and creates a situation where Muni buses become a natural extension of every officer's regular

beat. By all accounts, BIP has been a huge success.

As for the upkeep of the buses, I have instituted a 24-hour maintenance schedule that has dramatically increased the number of Muni vehicles operating on our streets each day and has helped keep those vehicles from breaking down on the road.

I have called for a drivers summit on March 2, where I will meet with as many Muni operators as possible to discuss issues of concern to them as well as to the public at large. At that summit, I will place an emphasis on driver courtesy and helpfulness, and will unveil a Driver of the Month program that will serve as a model for the nation.

I will continue to offer and encourage innovative ideas for our public transit system - whether it's putting young hall monitors on Muni's most troubled lines or specialized shuttle service for our quietest ones. I will push the City's transportation officials to explore these ideas, come up with new ones, determine which ideas are viable and implement those with the greatest speed and efficiency.

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## NOCTURNAL EVENTS

by Hank Hyena



### The First Condiment

Mission resident Kirk Mustard launches his "Mustard for President" campaign next month with a three-weekend stint at Shotwell Studios called "Mustard On America."

Although he was recently defeated in his "Mustard for Mayor" campaign, the dark horse remains undaunted. "I'm relieved," he says, "you don't even get a place to live if you're elected Mayor. This way, I'm still available for the White House."

Mr. Mustard was raised in Kansas, which he claims is accurately portrayed in *The Wizard of Oz*. "It really is black-and-white, he says. No color at all!" The son of wheat farmers, he informed me that bleached flour is exactly that: bleached, with bleach. "That's why everyone from Kansas seems sedated: bleached, plus wheat pesticides, chemical fertilizers..."

After college, he moved to Los Angeles, where he wrote satirical essays for the *LA Weekly* and instituted "Save The Smog Day." He left eventually because "the overwhelming sound of leaf-blowers and edgers was driving me crazy."

Why is he running for President? "I've got to say the things about America that other people aren't saying." Like what? "Computers are a plot by nerds to take over the world... It's their revenge because they don't get as much attention as sports stars."

What are your ideas on law and order? "No strikes, you're out! Arrest people

before they commit crimes! Using genetics and demographics, we'll incarcerate infants who are likely to grow up and become criminals."

Foreign Policy? "I guarantee war. We'll get permission from small countries to invade them. And, we'll have someone invade us! That'll give the survivalists something to do!"

Election Reform? "I want 'Democrat-TV.' Only 39% of the population votes, and 99% watches TV, so all issues will be decided by charting how many people watch a particular show."

What's wrong with America? "People feel closer to Columbo than they do to their next door neighbor. And the Federal Deficit? "I want to begin a \$75 billion study to find out what's causing it!"

Mustard's campaign slogan is "HE NEEDS A JOB. HE WANTS THE POWER." To learn more about his views, see him on Fridays and Saturdays, March 8 - 23 at 8p.m. at Shotwell Studios, 3252 19th Street. Enjoy Mustard, with relish! For reservations, call 695-1939.

### C, The Doctor

If your evenings were like mine last month, you spent all of your time coughing, sneezing, and retching green mucus out of your throat, wondering desperately what kind of medicine to use. I tried to kill my bronchitis with everything from Chinese fossil pills to oatmeal enemas.

One thing I didn't try, though, was a



Nocturnal Notable of the Month Kirk Mustard

new product from the recently demised Dr. Linus Pauling, the two-time Nobel Prize winner who discovered the miraculous powers of Vitamin C. His surviving family, with Irwin Naturals, is now marketing the deceased physician's secret vitamin recipes. I can't tell you all the ingredients, but they do include extracts of grapeseed, French maritime pine tree, and oyster shell.

Pauling's pills are reasonably priced. To locate them, call 1-800-286-9494.

### Playing Late

Since we're talking about medicine, have you seen Intersection for the Arts' new play, *Blue Morphine*, yet? Written by local playwright David Weber and produced by Talespinners Theater, the one-hour, hard-bitten, drugged-out, teenage runaway musical romance closes March 9th at 11p.m.

Eleven o'clock? Hey, great idea! Talespinners hopes that their upcoming "Late Date" series will become an exciting entertainment option for heart-of-the-Mission action-seekers. The show costs \$7-\$10. For information and reservations, call 431-2221.

### Hopping On Valencia

Another theater is opening up on Valencia Street, adding to the long list that already includes Intersection for the

Arts, The Marsh, Artists' Cafe, Artists Television Access, New College, Epicenter, etc. The whimsically-titled Grasshopper Palace has recently made its home on the fourth floor of the Fog Building, 333 Valencia.

Why grasshoppers? What's next? A Temple of the Praying Mantis? Currently under construction, the insectoid arena will have 35 seats, background chirping, and free locusts to eat (a Thai delicacy!).

The theater space is designed primarily for solo performers and workshops. A school of performing arts will offer classes there; instructors are needed! If you can teach playwriting, acting, directing, screenwriting, mask-making, yoga(?), or any other theater-related topic, contact the head grasshopper at 703-0591.

### Arf, Arf!

I hope you haven't missed this! On March 2nd the SPCA Education Annex at 243 Alabama will celebrate "Canine Commencement" for the Hearing Dog class of Winter '96. The scholastic pooches receive "dog-eared" diplomas after months of hard work, another "sound" investment by your local SPCA, who rescued the geniuses from animal shelters all over the Bay Area. I'm gonna list their names because I'm so proud of them: Taylor! Gizmo! Tulip! Holly! Nim! Tornado! Pinto! Ash! Buzz! Archie! Royal!



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# Art From The Heart



by Stephanie Block

I found gregarious Clifton E. Cox in the midst of his pink artist's apartment. He was all eyes -- they were wider, more brown, and even more friendly, magnified as they were by his thick glasses, than I had remembered. Marilyn Monroe was all eyes too, focusing her attention on her housemate's easel across the room. On it sat a large, whimsical painting in progress that portrayed a South Van Ness street scene, the store front signs not yet filled in.

This painting, which is now complete and hangs in the Mission Cultural Center, feels like a celebration, a word that came up again and again during my conversation with Cox. The artist's style is thick with color: tropical pinks and greens push out and fill his figures. Looping red ink advertises apples in a corner window like gift wrapping.

Both color and joy filled the Mission painter's living room during our sunny afternoon interview, which is not unusual until you consider the circumstances. The gift wrapping on the storefront echoes the subtle AIDS ribbon pinned to a mans shirt.

This essential quality pulls joy and celebration into Cox's art. Art has always

been one of the only places where people and their fears could tentatively meet; art's ability to face and to heal was what inspired Cox to go one step further with the people he met at a Shanti drawing class: He helped found and is now the executive director of Art From the Heart Heals (AFHH), a group of HIV positive and AIDS-diagnosed men and women. AFHH currently has an exhibit showing at the Mission Cultural Center.

Where Cox finds inspiration for his paintings is not in the streets themselves, but in the new way that he sees them after returning to art for therapy. He and the other AFHH artists, who are HIV positive and/or diagnosed with AIDS, use art to heal and to take an active role in the community. For them, creating art is an emotional, therapeutic, and empowering process.

For many of the artists with works on exhibit, art is not their primary profession; rather, it is something they turned to after being on Disability. Cox will be the first to tell you that not working can take its toll. Left with nothing to fill the days, Cox told me that he felt disabled.

But the stereotype of HIV positive/AIDS-diagnosed people -- that they are useless, ill, and incapable of functioning -- is something that Cox seriously

wants to remedy. A more accurate image that he wants his group to convey is that such people are anything but unproductive. AFHH believes that art not only enables a person to learn about himself or herself, but it also enables whole audiences to learn about other people. To enable the public to relate to something as fundamental as a picture re-humanizes any issue.

As Cox explained, "we are a loving group of people who want to contribute." That is what the AFHH art exhibit at the Mission Cultural Center is all about: bringing the powerful and hopeful experiences of 15 HIV positive/AIDS-diagnosed men and women to the community. Their 45 paintings, drawings, watercolors, and photographs reflect the ways art can give life as well as portray it.

AFHH is testament to the fact that AIDS is a community-wide concern. It consists of people from all walks of life, races, cultures, and sexual orientations. AFHH has met with an equally wide-ranging response from the community. Their supporters include not only Shanti but also Art Outreach, Continuum, the HIV services of Waldenhouse Plaintree, and Angela Alioto, who will appear at the March 10 opening reception.

A gallery adjacent to the AFHH space will feature works by artists from Visual Aid who have been diagnosed with AIDS or who are HIV positive. That the Mission is honoring people living with HIV and AIDS is especially important to Cox and his group because it fits in with Cox's vision of community members working together.

The Mission Cultural Center, however, is not the 10-month-old group's first major venue. In addition to two install-

ments at Shanti, the group's works recently decorated the walls of ex-Mayor Jordan's office, who recommended the group to the Cultural Center.

AFHH also received an invitation from the Veteran's Hospital to help celebrate the opening of their infectious disease clinic. And last Thanksgiving, they joined over a thousand others at the 10th anniversary of the AIDS Banquet held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. With such a promising start, what does the future look like for this dynamic group? New interests and old friends promise to bring the AFHH message to outlying areas like Petaluma and Pacifica. When I asked Cox what his long-term goals for the group were, he said he envisioned an AFHH gallery space and studio where artists can both work and exhibit.

I went to visit Cox a few days later to see the show go up at the Center, and I was surprised at the range of styles I found there. Saints with golden halos gave serene nods of approval to two artists standing on chairs and holding hammers, trying to decide whether a painting was hanging straight or not.

Some of the paintings were bordered with colorful shapes that looked like strange paisley plants or star clusters; these, I learned, were depictions of AIDS. Similar shapes appear in other paintings, in mountains and outdoor scenery. Cox and the other artists have succeeded in reimagining the disease's territory to see something new.

AFHH's exhibit at the Mission Cultural Arts Center (2868 Mission Street, at 25th) runs through March 23. All works are for sale. One third of the exhibit's proceeds will go to the Cultural Center.

## A MESSAGE FROM RAINBOW GROCERY

Dear Mission Neighbors

We at Rainbow Grocery Co-op Inc. would like to take this opportunity to make an announcement concerning our future in the Mission community. As you may have heard, Rainbow first opened its doors in 1975 and incorporated in 1976. Our original locale was on 16th Street between Valencia and Guerrero Streets, right in the heart of the Mission. Ten years later we moved to Mission Street.

Then as now, Rainbow enjoys a unique place in the Bay Area's health food market. By offering the largest bulk food and organic produce sections in San Francisco, over 300 products in the bulk herb and spice sections and best quality and low prices overall, Rainbow has set itself apart and far ahead of its competition.

Rainbow also offers a complete line of bath and body products as well as a wide variety of vitamins and supplements and an extensive book and magazine section to help customers better understand and utilize the products we sell.

Rainbow carries top quality dairy products, including many kinds of yogurt, free-range eggs, organic milk and a large variety of hand packed cheeses. Our frozen food section offers easy to prepare, healthy alternatives to accommodate today's busy lifestyles.

One outstanding feature of Rainbow Grocery and one that we are all very proud of, is our level of commitment to the

community. Through contributions of food, money and services R.G.C.I. supports over 400 community based organizations. Since its inception Rainbow has made it a point to reach out to the community. As a result we have enjoyed much growth and success over the past 20 years.

R.G.C.I. serves approximately 450,000 customers each year. They come from all walks of life, and from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. They are the actual rainbow that makes up our store.

Now R.G.C.I. is entering a new era. With the help and support of our customers and friends in the Mission and throughout the Bay Area, we will be expanding and moving our business to 1745 Folsom Street. Our new location is the former site of St. Vincent De Paul. The new store will be approximately three times the size of our present store with ample customer parking, plenty of aisle space and more check-out counters.

We want to invite all our friends, customers and neighbors to come and participate in launching the new Rainbow Grocery Co-op. We will always maintain that comfortable and familiar ambience that has been Rainbow's trademark over the years. The new Rainbow will be a beautifully designed, well lit space reflecting our clientele and the community we serve. We look forward to seeing you there.

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# WOMEN'S KULTURE KLATCH

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

Girlfriend-at-the-time and I walk down Valencia to 19th Street and pass a couple of cholos trying to push start a Thunderbird. This is flat ground, heavy car, one guy steering, one guy pushing; it's not working, the car isn't budging. We pass by the guys-with-cool-car, continue a few steps, then look at each other with that this-is-a-be-kind-to-our-neighbors-moment look in our eyes. We turn back, offer our help. The pushing guy is somewhat surprised by our offer because he has quickly scanned us and realizes he's alone with two lesbians; he lets us help.

There we are: two cholos, two lesbians being kind with each other. It works: the engine starts, we're profusely thanked; they're off to cruise the Mission streets looking way too cool. I still wonder if they ever let it be known that two lesbians helped them that night.

I'm crossing the street on Valencia near 26th. A man standing on the corner says to me: I forgive you. I know what he means since he was staring at my hand holding the hand of my girlfriend-at-the-time. I want to play with him a little; I say, For what? He evangelizes with a posture of false holiness, Jesus forgives you for being *that way*.

He probably invokes the name of Jesus because he thinks *that way* is the utterance of an obscenity; he wants to cover himself so he doesn't go to hell. I look at him square on invoking all my gyn-ergy to say in a flat, even tone, I do not need to be forgiven. I wonder if Jesus is in heaven, slapping his hand to his forehead: There they go invoking my name again -- and they're still misquoting

me out of context.

Bibles are meant to be read, not thumped. Jesus would not have offered forgiveness for loving. His entire work is about loving. Not one thing he ever said implies or states that there are any exceptions, amendments, or qualifiers; loving is not a sin. Sexual expression isn't even a sin unless it's done without respect, integrity, or consent.

I am not ashamed, and I don't need to be forgiven for my loving as expressed through my sexuality. I am not ashamed that I love women. I love women as deeply, richly, wholly as I can. I enjoy the company and companionship of women. I am sexual with women with their consent, with respect for who they are, with integrity of purpose. For me, being a lesbian is about loving a woman, loving the feminine.

I make sacrifices to be a lesbian. I know that my sweet stroll along any street in this city could be ruined by a gaybasher, an evangelical, or some squeaky clean person from Concord. I know there are people who would deny me a job, housing, even my life, because I am a lesbian. I know there are kids in the back of the bus who call each other faggot as an admonishment for non-herd behavior. Every time they use the word in such a context, it's a thump on my heart, not my genitalia.

In a patriarchy that promotes misogyny, it's unfavorable to love women or the feminine. In a civilization that thrives on testosterone, it's unfavorable to love femininity in men because it's womanly. As a lesbian, I don't revere men or the masculine just because this is a patriarchy. I don't hate women or myself as a woman because this is a patriarchy



and the masculine rules. I don't at all respect the hateful, judgmental, possessive ways, opinions, and actions promoted by the patriarchy.

My whole life is dangerous to the patriarchy, which is why anything, including my lesbianism, is used against me to keep me afraid, quiet, compliant. When I sin, it's against the patriarchy as established by Moses. When I love, it's within a spirituality as revolutionized by Jesus.

In the Bible there's a story of two women named Naomi and Ruth. Ruth vows to Naomi: entreat me not to leave you / and to turn back from following you; / whither you go, / there will I go; / wherever you stay, / there will I stay; / your people shall be my people, / and your god shall be my god; / wherever you die, / there will I die, / and beside you will I be buried.

I am their daughter; I am a lesbian; I do not need to be forgiven.



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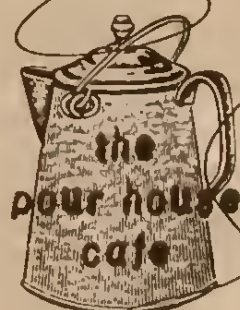
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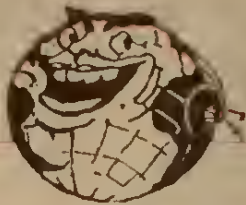
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## ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert L. Lewis

### A Melancholy Mode

One common misconception is that "world music" is all happy, uptempo dance music; indeed, most music that is marketed under the banner of "world beat" is precisely that. But most countries in the African-Latin-Caribbean world have music that is also contemplative and somber. One artist whose main mode must be described as melancholy is Cesaria Evora, from Cabo Verde, who achieved a surprising level of popularity this past year with her first domestic release and a brief tour that included two sold out shows at Great American Music Hall. In fact, her appeal was obvious. When she was finally produced without the drum machines endemic to French world music, she generated mass interest.

Evora's style owes some debt to the Portuguese fado, a guitar/string/vocal expression that can only be described as melancholy. Perhaps the most famous fado singer is Amalia Rodrigues, whose unmistakable voice evokes a sublime sadness. Another amazing voice from the Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) world is Bonga, whose strained, gravelly voice contains a melancholy that is almost palpable; check out some of his older music collected on a CD simply titled *Angola*.

Heading up into Central Africa we find the people who live in what remains of the rain forest there, the pygmies. Their unique polyphonic vocal style has entranced the ethnomusicologist, the techno-house audience, and the "world music" fan. The amazing female acappella group Zap Mama uses this vocal techni-

que as part of their popular repertoire, they had the entire audience at their show at Great America several years ago singing a chant to the pygmy god of peace, Zambea.

There are several excellent field recordings of pygmies, including *Heart of the Forest, Gabon: Musiques des Pygmées Bibayak, Aka Pygmy Music*, and *Mbuti Pygmies of the Ituri Rainforest*. Their voices were also successfully exploited by the French techno group Deep Forest.

The melancholy soul of Argentina gave rise to the country's unique musical contribution to the world: Tango. A serious, somber affair to the enthusiast, this musical style carries such brooding intensity that it cannot be taken casually. The creator of modern tango who brought this music to the classical stages of Europe and America was Astor Piazzolla. Apparently, the tango is one of the most popular musical and dance styles in the Nordic countries, where melancholy moods prevail, especially during the long dark winters. All the Piazzolla records on the American Clave label are superbly recorded; check out the classic *Tango: Zero Hour*, or *The Rough Dancer and the Cyclical Night*, or the live recording on Messidor, *The Vienna Concert*.

On the Latin side, amazing vocalists such as Mercedes Sosa of Argentina and Emma Junaro of Bolivia sing serious and often sad songs that touch the heart of many Latinos. The entire new song movement (*nueva trova* or *nueva canción*) that swept Latin America in the '70s and '80s contains many strains of somber reflection and a hope that has arisen from a sad history. Two of the most recognized and admired figures in this movement are Silvio Rodríguez and Pablo Milanes, from



the island that had a serious revolution, Cuba.

From the musically rich soil of Cuba come many amazing voices and differing textures. Check out the sad yearning voice of Guillermo Portabales as he sings the son lament, "Cuando Salí de Cuba" ("When I left Cuba") on a CD entitled, *16 Exitos*. One of Cuba's most popular singers of slower ballads or boleros and cabaret-style material is Elena Burke. She has recorded many records over the past 40 years, but her recent CD, *Canto Lo Sentimental*, is an exquisite mixture of bossa nova and bolero. Perhaps the single most loved and famous singer in Latin American history was the one and only Beny More. There

are many CDs out now of his recordings. Check out one of the bolero/romantic collections; they are guaranteed to pull at your heart strings.

From Brazil, the cool jazz style of bossa nova can tend toward the sad side of the minor chord. But for me, the sublime voice of Gal Costa singing "Vatapa" from her *India* record is the most seductive sound that melancholy can have. If you wish to enhance a depressive mood or embrace your melancholy wholeheartedly, you might want to pursue some of the suggestions I've made here. Winter blues cannot really be too serious a phenomenon in our ever-so-temperate city, so you might as well make the most of it.



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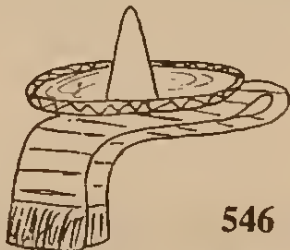
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# It's Pat

by Frank Deadheat

In my column for last month's edition of this paper, I sank to what my beautiful girlfriend described as "the lowest form of humor": fart jokes.

"Guess that makes me the lowest form of humorist," I said.

She rolled her eyes. Poor dear...how was she to know that THIS month I would sink even lower? How could she have guessed that Destiny would bid me to declare my candidacy for PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?!

Why such a drastic move? A cursory glance at the other candidates should suffice to answer that question. A more namby-pamby, lily-livered, mealy-mouthed collection of fartknockers would be difficult to envisage.

Take Pat Buchanan, for instance. There he was traipsing around New Hampshire like a freaking sissy, talking about NAFTA this and GAT that...disgusting! Not only was he blaspheming against George Bush's marvelous Republican vision of *global* corporate enslavement -- playing right into the hands of the Jerry Brown radicals, no less! -- but he was losing sight of the social and cultural agenda which has made him such a beloved national figure. I believe Herr Buchanan could have been #1 in the polls from *Day One* if he'd only had the guts to follow his political instincts and run on the truly populist platform which his favorite campaign advisor had worked so hard to help him craft. (I'm talking about Larry Pratt, that brave advisor who was forced to quit by the liberal pansy Press because of some harmless little neo-Nazi militia affiliations.) I mean, they had the humper stickers all printed up and everything, in glorious red-white-and-blue: "NUKE NEW YORK! NUKE FRISCO! VOTE FOR PAT!"

I can see them now, in some smoky back room...

"But sir, it's what the people want! At least all red-blooded Americans...and let's face it, sir: those goddamned liberals in Jew York and Fagtown are gonna vote for Clinton anyhow."

"You're right as usual, Larry, but doesn't that put us in kind of a Catch-22 situation? I won't have my finger on the hutton until *after* the election -- and who's to say we'll have a nuke to spare after we're done with Mexico and China?"

"This is where I earn my pay, sir. You see, I've got some friends out in the hinterland who've been working on this idea for quite some time. All they need is just another smidgen of plutonium and a couple of G.E. triggers, and BOOM! - You'd be the first Presidential candidate in American history to fulfill a campaign promise before the election's even held!"

"It sounds wonderful, Larry, but couldn't it be construed as...well, as *mass murder*?"

"Murder, schmurder! Look at Colin Powell! Even the *Press* loved Colin Powell -- not a dry eye in the house when he announced he wasn't running -- and *he* shared responsibility for the murder of tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians! Murder is a *plus* in this profession, sir. Why do you think Clinton is so weak? *Because he hasn't killed enough wogs!* Oh, sure, there was that little bombing raid on Baghdad when he first took office -- couple of innocent women and children blown to bits to teach Sadaam a lesson -- but then, before those bodies are even cold, he goes ahead and shoots himself in the foot by talking about fags in the military! Sir, the wheels of American politics are not greased with K-Y jelly, but with the blood of foreigners!"

"It's awful hard to argue with you there, Larry, because I know you're right...but what about George Bush? He was a mass murderer too, and he *lost* to Clinton."

"True, but only because the blood had dried too long *before* the election.



Americans have a tendency to forget; they want *fresh* blood. That's why I believe a preemptive strike on the eve of the election would ensure our total victory."

If only Pat had listened, I would not be forced to step into the political ring and announce my candidacy for President. Having studied the polls, the issues, the other candidates, I have come to the inescapable conclusion that the American

people are desperate for a candidate who will articulate *their* beliefs and concerns without worrying about being criticized by pussies -- someone who will wave Old Glory without apology or conscience, and wage a campaign based entirely on fear, ignorance, higoity, and genocide.

Together, as a people, let's see just how low we can sink.

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